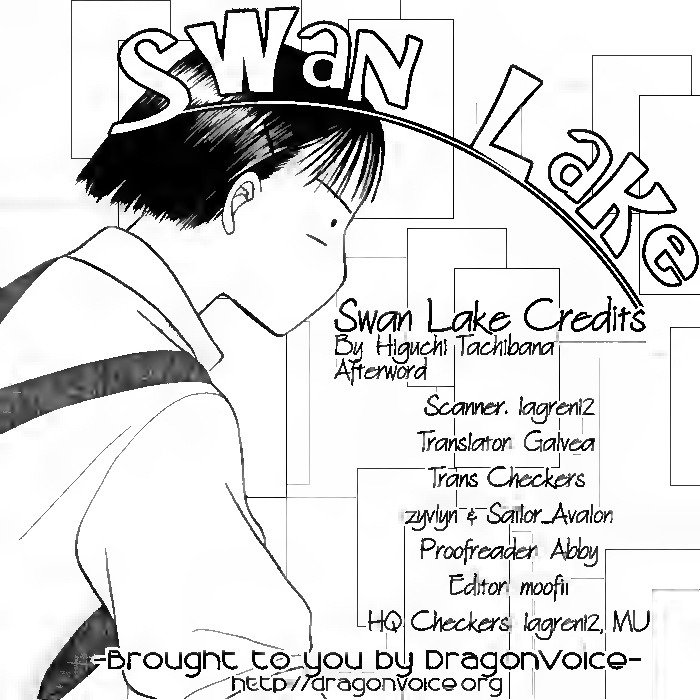

Swan Lake Credits

By Higuchi Tachibana
Afterword

Scanner: lagrent2
Translator: Galvea
Trans Checkers
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Proofreader: Abby
Editor: moofii
HQ Checkers: lagrent2, MU

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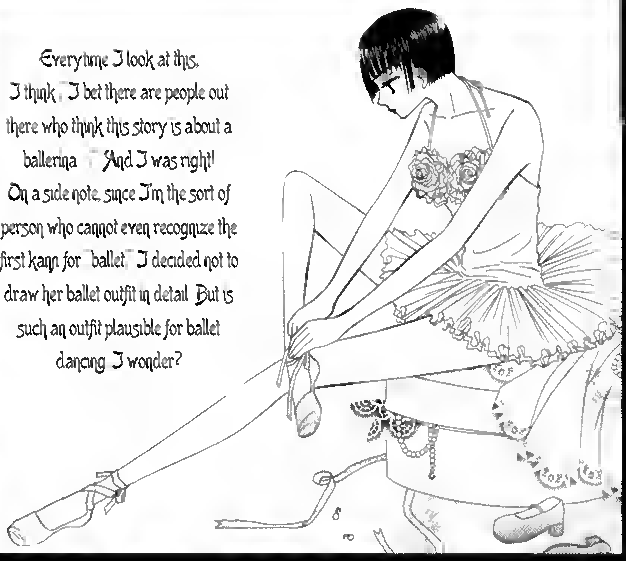
Higuchi Tachibana's Theatre
Welcome!
This is the manga-ka's chatroom.
It's like an enchanted candy house, and
you won't be able to escape once you enter.
This is your last chance to turn back.
In other words, it's the after-word
Information
About the stories
Previous works
Higuchi's Manga-ka Journey

SWAN LAKE

This story is Higuchi's first serialized work.
It was originally supposed to be based on "Cinderella," but once I finished it, I realized that the theme had changed. Oh dear... I had just finished reading both Swan Lake and Cinderella before drawing this, so I was still very much immersed in the worlds of the two main characters. As a result it was decided early on that the main character would be a rather calculative person, someone not 100 percent good. When it was serialized, both the grandfather and Momoko were a big hit. That was completely beyond me. If you pay attention, their ears sometimes go missing! (laugh) On the other hand, no matter how beautiful Tsubaki is drawn, I will still make corrections.

Swan Lake

Everytime I look at this, I think, I bet there are people out there who think this story is about a ballerina. And I was right! On a side note, since I'm the sort of person who cannot even recognize the first kanji for "ballet," I decided not to draw her ballet outfit in detail. But is such an outfit plausible for ballet dancing, I wonder?



Mermaid

This story was based on Andersen's "Little Mermaid" and was originally titled "Faint." However, a year before it was serialized, the magazine publisher contacted me asking for it to be changed to a fairytale.

When it was serialized, Miwa sensei was unexpectedly popular. Once again, that really surprised me. Even so, I still enjoy drawing girls the most — and they have to be really beautiful. Someone once said to me, "Why don't you try drawing an ordinary-looking girl for once?" but that's impossible. I will never draw a main character who isn't beautiful. I don't want to. At least for now. Drawing beautiful girls is so much fun...

I thought of drawing a sequel, but in the end I never got around to it. Basically the two of them will live happily ever after... The End.

Mermaid

Frog Princess

The main idea here is the "Frog Princess" (or rather, the "Frog Prince") It's something I drew based on the idea of a Frog Princess. It's the oldest work out of the three compiled here. It scares me just thinking about it.

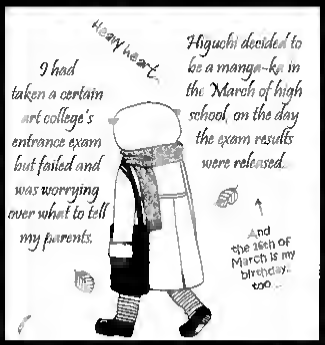
Before I started on this story, I was really depressed. After finishing it though, I gradually cheered up again. Because of this, "Frog Princess" left a deep impression on me.

Now that I think about it, having one of the main characters appear as a frog most of the time really made things a lot easier (laugh)

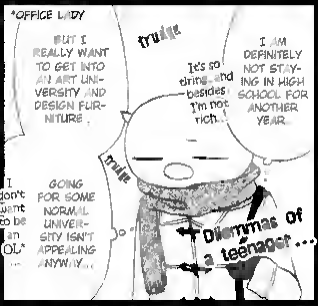
The female lead, Yoriko, is a character I really like. I guess it's true that the tragic heroines are often the most attractive... Im really glad I drew her...

By the way, I like beautiful girls, but not beauties with a strong Enka flavour. I hate Enka. Oh dear... I get dizzy whenever I write about beautiful girls. Definitely not good for my brain!

Below is a list of Higuchi Tachibana's works. Only a maniac like me would match the titles with their main characters huh? (applause)
Brassa (12/'95) Award winner
Light-blue Girlfriend (3/'96)
Sakura of May (5/'96)
Feast (8/'97)
The Girl of the Impression Painting (8/'97)
Feast (10/'97)
Wonderful Days (12/'97)
The Returning Queen (2/'98)
Club of Darkness (4/'98)
Mermaid (6/'98)
Club of Darkness (9/'98)
A Story of Bitter Love (11/'98)
The Girl in a Bird Cage (2/'99)
A Mystery Under the Sakura Tree (3/'99)
Swan Lake (7-8/'99)
Letter (9/'99)
I had to look through my old works for this section... & it really isn't good for my heart.


Heavy heart...
I had taken a certain art college's entrance exam but failed and was worrying over what to tell my parents.
Higuchi decided to be a manga-ka in the March of high school, on the day the exam results were released.
And the 26th of March is my birthday, too...

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES THE EVENTS LEADING TO MY DEBUT. IT'S AN EXCLUSIVE, SO PLEASE READ ON!
I'm sorry if your eyes hurt, though.

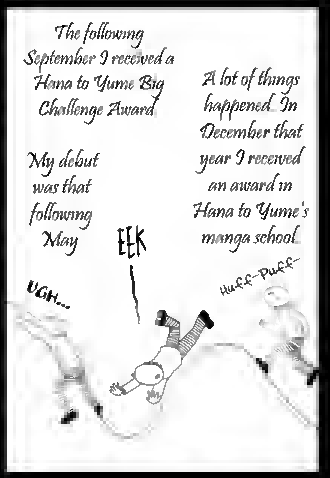

*OFFICE LADY
BUT I REALLY WANT TO GET INTO AN ART UNIVERSITY AND DESIGN FURNITURE.
truly
It's so tiring...and besides I'm not rich...
I AM DEFINITELY NOT STAYING IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR ANOTHER YEAR.
I don't want to be an OL*...
GOING FOR SOME NORMAL UNIVERSITY ISN'T APPEALING ANYWAY...
truly
Dilemmas of a teenager...

Sigh...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
Study at a film school...
Or maybe become an apprentice at a bread shop...
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO ON MY OWN...?
But I doubt I can survive on the pay...
HM
MM

What an exaggerated title...

And so I dove headlong into it.

At that time, I loved manga, picture books and movies. I often did stuff like drawing picture books by myself or submitting 4-komas drawn with friends

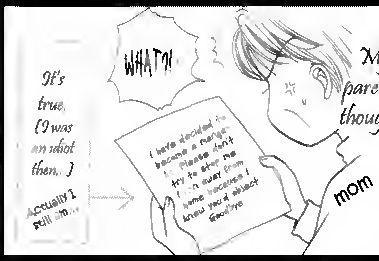


The following September I received a Hana to Yume Big Challenge Award.

My debut was that following May.

A lot of things happened. In December that year I received an award in Hana to Yume's manga school.

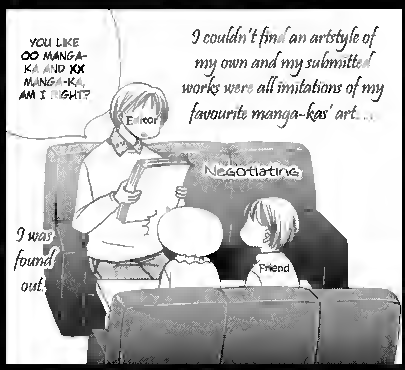
My friends, too...


WHAT?!
I have decided to become a manga-ka. Please don't try to stop me from leaving home because I know you'd object. Goodbye
mom

My parents, though...

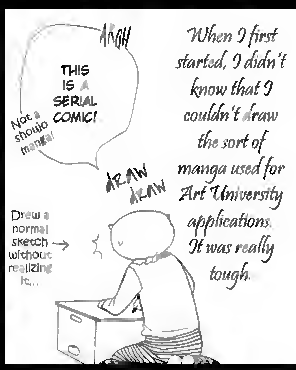
It's true. (I was an idiot then...)

Actually I pull on...



I was found out.

I couldn't find an artstyle of my own and my submitted works were all imitations of my favourite manga-kas' art...



When I first started, I didn't know that I couldn't draw the sort of manga used for Art University applications. It was really tough.

By the way, Higuchi Tachibana is my pen name.

A lot of people have said that it's a little odd.

Higuchi Tachibana

It's an auspicious name "Tachibana" came from my desire to have a name related to plants

Higuchi's History (Debut Arc)

↑ Erm... the title seems to be different from the original

End

I finally found my own style.

WITH SWEAT, EFFORT AND DETERMINATION...?

I had no other choice then. I decided not to think about anything and drew my heart out. I did still-life sketches and practiced drawing the people featured in magazines under 30 seconds.

My reasoning was that nearly all my favourite manga-kas had their works serialized in "Hana to Yume"

At that time, the only thought in my mind was, "If I'm to draw manga, then I must absolutely, definitely join Hakusensha!"

Aheaven...

Publisher's New Year Party

From now on I'll continue to do my best to create works everyone will enjoy.

Higuchi Tachibana, '99

Since I've received a lot of letters, ✤ DATA ✤ I'll answer some of the questions asked.

H

Q. When's your birthday?
A. *March 16th. I'm a blood-type A Pisces*

Q. Your hobbies?
A. *Movies, taking walks, traveling, stamp collecting, and befriending beautiful people.*

Q. How old are you? What's your real name?
A. *It's a secret.*

Q. What are the benefits of being a manga-ka?
A. *Reading manga is considered part of the job.*

I

Q. Your favorite manga-kas?
A. *Fujiko Fujio*
Oshima Yumiko
Kawahara Izumi
Sasaki Noriko
Iwadate Mariko
Hagio Moto
Yamagishi Ryouko
Kihara Toshie
Umezu Kazuo
Shimizu Reiko
Mochizuki Kami

Q. Your favorite artist?
A. *It depends on my mood. I'm not a particular fan of anyone.*

Q. Where do you live?
A. *Kyoto. It's a nice place.*

Q. What are your drawing tools?
A. *I use Dr. Martin color markers.*

G

Q. Your favorite artwork?
A. *Takehisa Yumeji, Chagall, Hatsuyama Shigeru, Fukiya Kouji, Greenaway, Zwerger, Bosch, Mare, Chouyuu Giga, E. Kreidolf, Barbier etc. (in no particular order, without titles)*

Q. Do you have any pets?
A. *Nope. Though my older sister has a rabbit that I play with sometimes.*

Q. Do you have any manga-ka friends?
A. *Yes. I try to make friends at the publisher's New Years party.*

J

Q. Do you have special letter paper set aside for replies?
A. *Nope. On New Years and holidays I send out D-I-Y cards.*

Q. How do you name characters?
A. *I get the names from places, historical figures, names I like, and movies.*

Q. What do you like?
A. *Delicious food, trees, autumn, odds and ends, movies, artbooks, manga etc.*

THANKS

Thank you for reading this book all the way through.

I would like to thank and also apologize to everyone I've inconvenienced and to those who have helped me.

↓

Mr. Editor (Both the current one and the one before), my family, my friends, my manga-ka pals (even though they don't really read my manga...) And of course, all the angels who have been a big help to me.

Thanks to all the people who wrote letters and silently encouraged me in their own way ♡ You guys are my sun! Thanks for the support! I hope all of you can write to me and tell me what you think of this book.

I hope all of you can write to me and tell me what you think of this book.

〒101-0063
東京都 千代田区 神田 一ツ橋町
2-2-2
(株)白泉社 花とゆめ 編集部
樋口 橘 係

Tajima dressed up (Lolita style). I never gave the poor girl a fun name. (From "Mermaid.")

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SEE YOU AGAIN

Swan Lake Credits

By Higuchi Tachibana
Chapter 1

Scanner: Lagren12
Translator: Galvea
Sfx_Translator: Lagren12
Proofreader: Abby
Editor: Dreamer_Forever
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花とゆめCOMICS

Swan Lake

Higuchi Tachibana

Tachibana Higuchi

First Comics

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Swan Lake

Chapter 1

PRESENTED BY TACHIBANA HIGUCHI

Hello, everyone. I'm Hiroshi Tachibana and this is my first tankoubon. The three short stories compiled in here are all based on certain fairytales.

It would be my honour if reading this book proves to be a fun experience for old and new readers alike!

99 Hiroshi Tachibana

Ah, that's right.. the main characters in my stories are all beautiful! I wonder who's the prettiest among the three?

a frog forest

a Mermaid inlet

a Cinderella road

SWAN
ARAI
One I've always longed for
A secret dream I cannot reveal...
I have a small dream
ACT.1
Hey! Look!
IT'S NIRE-SAN AND KATSURAGI -SENPAI!
I long for it to come true...
Both are good-looking!
THEY'RE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN
IT'S AS THOUGH THEY'RE FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD!
THEY'RE THE BEST COMBINATION IN WHATEVER THEY DO!
I HEAR THEY'RE PRETTY WEALTHY!
Katsuragi-senpai's dad is a politician
I hear Nire's pretty well off too

I cannot afford to slip up...
ARE THOSE TWO GOING OUT?
Ahh.. YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW 'CUZ YOU ARE NEW
SEEMS TO ME EVERYONE IS JUST FUSSING OVER NOTHING
AHA HA HA HA
AIBA'S FINALLY ANNOUNCED HIS NEXT TARGET!
He's already gotten quite a few since transferring here!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NIRE'S STANDARDS ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE OTHER GIRLS!
She's not that easy!
Just for the record, Nire is No 1 in the school's long line of pretty girls
Hmm
TSUBAKI HUH. ?
PERFECT, IDEAL STUDENTS ARE MY TYPE TOO!
A COUPLE LIKE THAT REALLY DOES EXIST, HUH ?
To me, high school life...
is the path towards my dream

only his third day and he's already dumped three girls.
Grin
SEEING SUCH A PERFECT COUPLE...
The more you say it's impossible the more I want to do it.
MAKES ME WANT TO GO BREAK THEM UP.

GYA HA HA HA
What a guy!
The "princess" types are usually attracted to the "bad-boy" types.
Hey, I'm a man among men!
IF YOU GET HER, I'LL GIVE YOU 5000 YEN!
The person
The school is an important place...

...for me to make my dream come true

← Confession time

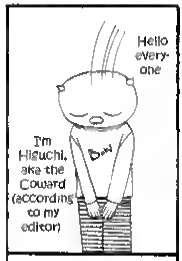
Openly flirting in the corridor
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO ANSWER
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO SLEEP WITH ME IT'S JUST A DATE
Although he intends to do so
I REFUSE!
Quick answer
PLEASE STOP FOLLOWING ME!
Goodbye
Step Step Step Step Step Step Step Step Step Step
Step Step Step
Ti———————ng...
Unsuccessful
Ba—ka
GYA HA HA HA
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DECISIVE
chuckle
chuckle
KATSURAGI-SENPAI
THAT'S THE FIRST YEAR TRANSFER STUDENT, AIBA RIKU, RIGHT?
You saw every thing huh
I'M NOT TOO SURE MYSELF, BUT I FEEL AS THOUGH HE'S JUST FOOLING AROUND
That's why I was kind of impolite
THE GIRLS ARE GOING CRAZY OVER HIM!
Saying there's a really cute first year transfer student and all...
HA HA HA
THAT'S TRUE
5000 yen
Bastards! once doesn't count!

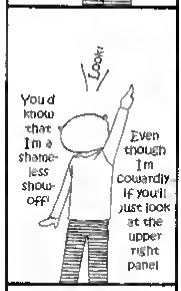
KAT-SURAGI-KUN!
HMM?
I HAVE TO GO TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL
What are you doing in the 2nd years' block?
NIRE-SAN IS HERE AS WELL?
GLARE
My dream is right here.
HATANO-SAN!
SO YOU WERE HERE ALL ALONG ♡
I've been looking for you
It's right within my reach
You're pretty insolent!
AH? AH, HATANO IS GOING AT IT AGAIN...
NIRE-SAN'S ARRIVAL THREATENED HER STATUS AS QUEEN
BESIDES, SHE'S AFTER KATSURAGI AS WELL...
Eh?
She's so easy to read!
NIRE-SAN MUST BE PRETTY TROUBLED
Therefore
...I'VE NOTICED FOR A WHILE NOW.

I'm not sure how it started,
Yeah Yeah
Gurr...
No, it's okay.
Is it serious?
Oh... so your body isn't that healthy
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING
You-
YOU THINK I'D BELIEVE THAT?
Don't go off into a world of your own!
YOU OVER THERE! SHUT UP!
She's totally the villain here
She really doesn't learn
Ah, she lost again...
Disciplinary Committee
YOUR UNIFORM
IS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM OURS...
no matter what happens,
I can't let my guard down
ISN'T THAT AGAINST THE RULES?
THAT... THAT IS BECAUSE MY SKIN'S ALLERGIC TO THE FABRIC
SO I'M ALLOWED TO HAVE MINE CUSTOM-MADE

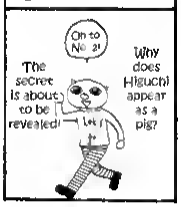
Those who wish to read please do so!

Higuchi's Room -1-





Come and look for me every one!
Perhaps it's because of my frequent cameos that I often receive letters saying "Who's that cute pig?" and "Give that brooding pig a bigger role!"
Swan Lake
No way



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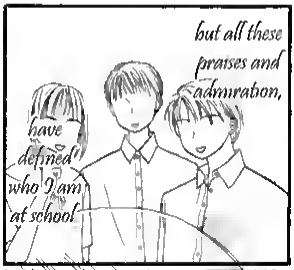
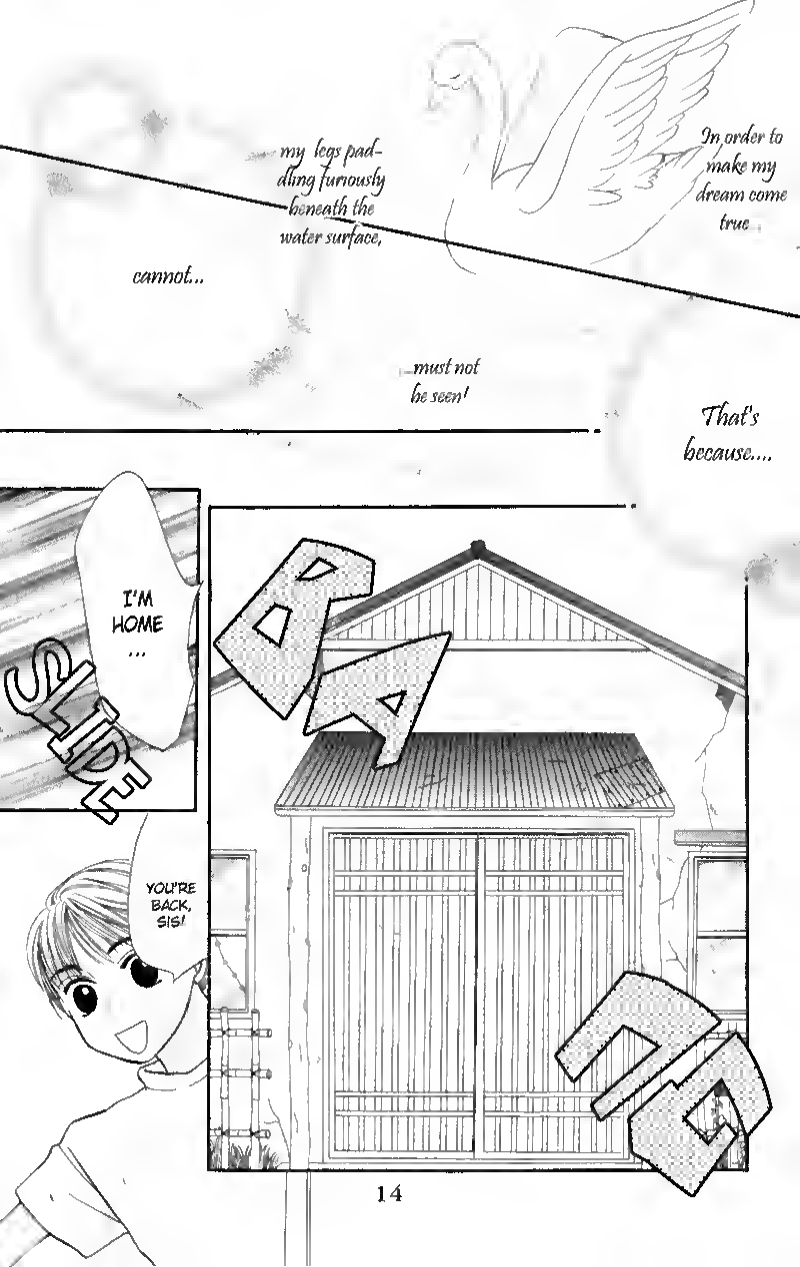
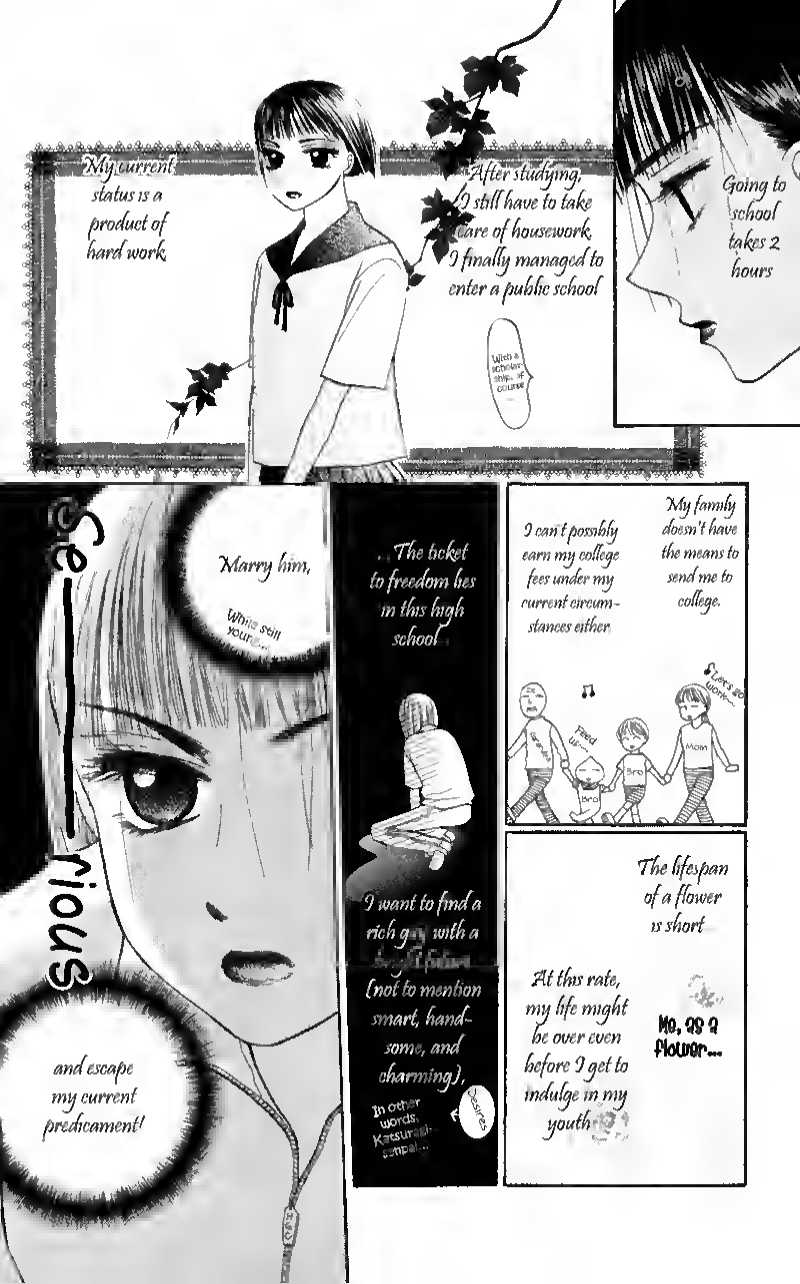



my legs paddling furiously beneath the water surface,
In order to make my dream come true...
cannot...
...must not be seen!
That's because....
SLIDE
I'M HOME ...
YOU'RE BACK, SIS!
PAT
TER

Grip
Go water the plants!
Okay
is the reason...
This...
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
AOTAKE, HAVE YOU SWEPT THE BATHROOM? BROUGHT IN THE LAUNDRY?
GRANDPA, GO FETCH MOMO FROM THE NURSERY
Welcome back!
Laundry Laundry
ALREADY DID
THANKS!
Momo
ALL DONE!
Tac Tac Tac Tac
Tac Tac Tac Tac Tac
Tac Tac Tac Tac Tac Tac
Listen listen
SIS!
SHHH
Tac Tac Tac Tac
BUY ME A NEW CLIP AND A SPORTS' WAIST-POUCH!
No!
I'LL MAKE A NEW WAIST-POUCH FOR YOU LATER!
There's no need to buy a new one
Grandpa too
Momo wants one too.
AS FOR THE CLIP WE CAN GET ONE FOR FREE AFTER COLLECTING ENOUGH POINTS FROM THE BAKERY.
MOMO, I'LL GIVE YOU THE CLIP I MADE DURING POTTERY CLASS
Grandpa will have to wait
Hmm
SIZZLE SIZZLE

He's such a nice guy. He gave us all those even though he isn't here for a scoop
That was a while ago!
Free dental gent would have been better
Mama's back!
I'm home
Sis, that guy from the news agency came and gave us lots of tickets to the amusement park!
Oh, so he likes Tsubaki!
Grandpa, please bathe Momo.
Okay~
Why?
I think it's ember assing!
Sew Sew Sew
Aotake, don't go around telling people about it!
zz~ (Mama fell asleep)
Shhh
Clank Clank
Mama wants a cup of tea ♡
Alright!
Mama, for my essay today I wrote, "Papa went overseas and didn't come back" My classmates say it means he went missing!
Is that true?
Ah... that may be right!
Yippie Yippie
Drama books
Yay!
Hurry on and sleep!
Accounting
Ah, We nearly over spent this month
zz~
I am

Sharing the responsibilities of an absent father and a busy mother... My life has always been busy and devoid of freedom
I've been cooking, washing and taking care of two younger brothers...
DAZL
Sigh...
Ever since I could remember...
Hahh—
This is the real me...
Always trying to save my family from bankruptcy... All these years I've lived like a stressed-out housewife.
Unlike other children, I don't have money to squander or time to spend playing around...
Made out of cloth from home due to lack of money
I SEEM TO HAVE DECEIVED HER FOR THE MEANTIME, BUT IT'S STILL RISKY
How annoying...
THAT'S RIGHT TODAY, THAT HATANO
Presses her uniform under her futon in order to out down on ironing
I can't even have a room of my own...
I want to escape
this life that has me shackled
I want to be free!


My current status is a product of hard work.
After studying, I still have to take care of housework. I finally managed to enter a public school.
With a scholar's style, of course...
Going to school takes 2 hours
My family doesn't have the means to send me to college.
I can't possibly earn my college fees under my current circumstances either.
Let's go home...
Tired...
Hungry
Mom
Bro
Bro
...The ticket to freedom lies in this high school.
I want to find a rich guy with a
(not to mention smart, handsome, and charming).
In other words, Kassumai-sempai!
Desires
The lifespan of a flower is short
At this rate, my life might be over even before I get to indulge in my youth.
Me, as a flower...
Marry him,
While still young...
Se——rious
and escape my current predicament!

and achieve happiness with my own hands no matter what
Even if they laugh and say I'm only dreaming
For this dream, I'll do everything I can!
GRIP...
Kaisuragi-senpai's opinion of me improve every single day. I will continue my delicate act as a swan,
Whew...
Argh I still have homework
I'll need to use a cucumber face mask.

COOKING, SEWING...
AND A BIT OF GARDENING...
Wow...
Chirp
Morning
News Club's Interview
MY HOBBIES ?
Chirp...
CHATTER
Morning
CHATTER
I LIKE TO DESIGN MY OWN CLOTHES, TOO.
Actually it's because buying is a waste
Wow That's amazing
MAKING DESSERTS IS QUITE INTERESTING TOO...
AND BEING AMONG PLANTS IS VERY THERAPEUTIC...
Especially edible ones

Thanks for the interview
AMAZING. I HEAR THE INTERVIEW'S ABOUT "SCHOOL BEAUTIES"?
SENPAI
Eh?
I DON'T SEE THAT TRANSFER STUDENT AROUND TODAY!
Took a leave?
I DON'T KNOW
Ailsa
I'M SO SLEEPY, TIRED AND HUNGRY
Ah~ what to do? My lunch
Grumble
Whisper
Whisper
Depressed
I was so busy I forgot to eat breakfast, and I didn't have time to pack a lunch-box either...
Mama crying during the night and grandpa's sleep-talking didn't help
I couldn't sleep at all last night
Who cares about him
Whisper
NIRE-SAN'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL...
HER PALE SKIN MAKES HER LOOK SO DREAM-LIKE...
Whisper
NONE OF THE IDOLS ON TV CAN COMPARE TO HER...
Crimson Prayer
Nire from 1-A
phone call from your family
It's urgent~

STAFF ROOM
DIDN'T I TELL THEM TO NEVER CALL ME AT SCHOOL ...?!
HELLO, TSUBAKI HERE
Which idiot is it...
Sis. it's me! Come to the parent-teacher conference now...
Aotake
Ah!
THAT'S NIRE TSUBAKI
LECTURE lecture lecture——
OH? OH! HOW LUCKY!
HOLD ON!
Aotake
This panel is perfectly executed ⟶
Sis! Please come right now!
Or I'll get a scolding
Sorry Mother...
Hic
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN
Mama agreed to come today...
But she didn't...
...PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE?!
Teacher said that someone from the family must come
I'm the only one in class without a relative here
Hic
You've got to be kidding
..HOLD ON! I CAN'T GO, ASK GRANDPA TO..
You've got to behave
DON'T BE SO SELFISH
I don't want Grandpa! I want you!
The younger the better~
SIGH.
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

Screech
No—
No—
No—
Eeee
POUND POUND POUND!
You must come
grrr—
This brat has the audacity to scream in my ear when I'm this tired and hungry...
fume fume fume fume fume fume fume
Father and mother never came for my parent-teacher conferences...!
Whisper...
I said I am busy. Which part of it don't you understand? You little brat!
UH.....
Switch
I'LL GO ASK GRANDPA TO GO, ALRIGHT?
Yes
...DON'T TROUBLE YOUR SISTER SO
Hard on hearing
AH...
Just now I thought I heard something like a threat or
I think it came from behind
TING
Must have mis heard
Must have imagined it.

I slipped up and it's all because I'm exhausted
Nire-san...?!
What's going on?!
DAMN...!
The way I covered it up was a bit shoddy
All I can do now is pray no one noticed!
SLIDE...
BAM
Sorry to bother you.
That I'm was
Hey! Are you listening?
Besides! That Aotake!
I'M GONNA TEACH HIM A LESSON WHEN I GET HOME!
I'm just lonely...
EXCUSE ME
SMILE
SMILE
After school

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STOP FOLLOWING ME?
EHP ME?! I'M NOT FOLLOWING YOU.
SMILE SMILE
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS!
This guy-- I remember he's that transfer student Aiba
I rejected him not too long ago
What's he up to?!
What an annoying guy
How long does he intend to follow me around?
No way!!
Nire's house is so far
Don't tell me he intends to keep following me
SMOKING
CLEAN
This isn't a joke!
AH!
DASH

JEEZ!
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO PULL ..?
I have to wait till he's gone before I can leave
Ni..
Clack
Swish
Swish
She's really fast
That's a huge house
Sprent 2 hours cleaning up the garden after that
Anything wrong?
Hmm? Aren't you Tsubaki?
SIGH~
Yesterday was a disastrous day
Cleaning up the garden was incredibly tiring too...
He made me miss the super-market sale...
CHIRP~
CHIRP

Because of hm...!
It's all
THUD!
SLAP
NIRE-SAN!
Grandpa and Aotake didn't leave any dinner for me!
TWEET TWEET
Unfinished chores! Continuous lack of sleep!
PE
3 more rounds~
HURRY
And 1/3 of my homework was left unfinished
Nire-san!
INFIRMARY
WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE HER SUFFER FROM OVER-EXERTION AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY?!
Impossible
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT SHE IS BEEN FORCING HERSELF FOR QUITE A WHILE
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
OVER-EXERTION, LACK OF SLEEP,
AND NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY...!?
Forcefully carried her here alone

LET HER REST FOR A WHILE!
AH!
YOU'RE AWAKE?
SPRING
Don't get up so suddenly
AH!
I'm relieved you're alright
SENPAI
Why are you ?!
SCHOOL'S ALREADY OVER I'LL WALK YOU HOME!
It's alright, I'm fine now!
EH YOU DON'T NEED TO
THAT WON'T DO! I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE!
I WAS WORRIED YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS FOR QUITE A WHILE
Fainting from P.E
Nire's asleep
I'M REALLY ALRIGHT NOW...

I'M REALLY.. WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
EH..
KLANG
YOU LOOK VERY SURREAL
AS THOUGH YOU MIGHT SUDDENLY DISAP-PEAR...
KLONG KLANG
IS THAT SO
THAT'S GREAT
YOU'RE OKAY
I didn't say anything strange, did I
WELL
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF!

...I WILL!
Fuu...
FU...
Ah... I've let my guard down without meaning to
Pull yourself together, Tsuoak
FU FU FU FU FU FU FU FU FU
My future is bright!
Katsushiro-senpai is almost mine now!
He isn't following me today...
Ah... that right... that annoying guy
Damn!! There's a discount on eggs today...!
Ah!
Prize from a contest
I've got to hurry...!
DASH
Oh well!
He's probably given up!
zoom
...
30km per hour

Super Hisuchi Hi Su Chi
In any case,
I'm so lucky today
SUCCESS!
What are all those for?
TALALALALALA
by Rissan Knight
THAT NIRE
SHE'S DEFINITELY HIDING SOMETHING
A sick person shouldn't be capable of going that fast.
AH
SHE WENT PAST THAT HOUSE
Pass

Was Sis's home!
I'm home.
Nire
Clank
Why...
Her house.
Nire
What did you buy?
THIS...
COULD THIS BE...
Airright, come help out after cleaning the bathroom!
Okay
Hehehen There was a sale today!
NIRE'S HOUSE ...!?
Wow! Beer! And potatoes! Wonderful!
How luxurious!

wobble
THUD
It was all just to deceive me ?!
Then...
No way....
What happened yesterday
Vegetable patch
.....
My hobbies include cooking, sewing and gardening
But ...!
Go set an egg-plant from the garden
AND PLANT THIS LEEK ROOT WHILE YOU ARE AT IT!
It'll grow
Okay!
She didn't he but...
Indeed she didn't he
SIS, THIS PAIR OF PANTS IS TOO SMALL
DON'T WASTE! WE CAN STILL MAKE A HANDBAG OR SOMETHING OUT OF IT

SLIDE...
AH!
SIS, WE HAVE A VISITOR!
EH?
It's dinner time
Skip
COMING!
WHO IS IT
Tch!
No common sense
Skip

Depressed
DASH
girl
Eek
NIRE
CAN♥
SIGH...
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT NIRE HAS A SECRET LIKE THAT?
I wonder what'll happen if everyone finds out?
NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
THE TRUTH IS OUT!!
Thu
Waaa! It's falling!!
HERE...
IS HE...
WHY...
W...

EVIL GRIN~...
TWITCH
TWITCH
GRIN
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HIDE IT,
I CAN KEEP IT TO MYSELF.
whisper
LOOK ROOT...
TWITCH
MY, YOU ARE DOING IT AGAIN!
Jeez!
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
DEPRESSED
BUT ON ONE CONDITION!
^^
NIRE-SAN,
GO OUT WITH-ME!
What ...!
<Chapter 1/End>

花とゆめCOMICS

スワン レイク

樋口　橘

花とゆめ COMICS
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白泉社

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花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

昔むかしのお話!?が、樋口橘的スパイスたっぷりのコミックスで初登場!!
完璧!?少女のハイパーLOVEバトル「スワン レイク」。王子と人魚姫の時を超えたLOVEロマンス「人魚」。少女とかえる!?の不思議LOVE「かえる王女」を収録。描きおろし「樋口橘劇場」も◎

白泉社

作品かいせつ

奇麗・賢い・優雅と三拍子そろった完璧少女仁礼椿。でもそれは超貧乏な家から「玉の輿」に乗って解放される夢を叶えるために、努力の末作り上げた姿だった。高校で「最上級の男」葛城先輩に出会い、夢の実現も間近と思われた矢先、転校生の相葉に秘密がばれて!?樋口橘の初コミックス!

●樋口　橘の本
――花とゆめコミックス――
スワン レイク

Swan Lake Credits

By Higuchi Tachibana
Chapter 1

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http://dragonvoice.org

Swan Lake

Chapter 2

Ever since I was little...
I've had to help my parents look after my siblings and do the housework
I had no money, no freedom, no time.
Play with me...
I'm hungry
My only motivation was
A trophy husband
I gave it my all to get to ...here I am today
Now...
"You'll have to go out with me if you want me to keep quiet!"
But... just when my dream was about to become a reality...
The truth is out!
That was...
...the start of my nightmare
...
Smile
NIRE-SAN
♡
ACT.2

My dream is finally within my grasp...
There's no way I'll let you destroy it!!
Kick and Run
Some one like him
THAT☆ GIRL ...
Where did you get kicked?
HOW ABOUT IT?
Going out with him or having my secret revealed...
I DON'T WANT EITHER!!
UGH...
Ki
ck
After that...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
truuge
truuge
Going to the Belonging
Eat her lunch
(Doesn't want anyone to see the miserable food inside her lunchbox)
butt
Recess
I RAN AWAY, BUT...

blah blah
Why!
Dammit
What did I tell you!
AND I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO WAY YOU'D GET NIRE-SAN...
I DOUBT HE WILL BACK OFF JUST LIKE THAT
chatter
chatter
chatter chatter...
CRASH
Her lunchbox fell
blah
blah
QUEEN
Can't speak
After lunch
Dismiss you!
Wha...
AH! NIRE-SAN!
YOU TOLD EVERY-ONE...
What's this...
BAM!
LOOK AT ALL THIS MONEY! I CAN SPEND IT ALL TODAY
THAT WE ARE "IN A RELATION-SHIP"...?!

Very effective
CASUAL MANNER
THE KICK FROM THIS MORNING
IS ALSO INCLUDED!
Grin.
NIRE-SAN!
WHY DID YOU
What's going on?
MOO
Whisper
IF YOU REFUSE,
I'LL REVEAL EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW!
HEY, AIBA!
Don't tell me you just got dumped!
STONE
HEY LISTEN, NIRE-SAN IS—
♡
ACTU-ALLY
KWIP
AH
Grin
Aiba you two are really going out, right?

WE'LL FIND A PLACE WHERE WE CAN BE ALONE ♡
GYa
That we go!
LET'S GO! ONWARDS TO THE WORLD OF LOVE! ♡
NIRE-SAN, YOU LIKE ME THAT MUCH, HUH? ♡
HUGGING ME IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ALL OF A SUDDEN...
See!
HUG
YOU...
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO EARLIER!
clatter
LIFT
LET'S GO!
DON'T MOVE AROUND! YOUR PANTIES WILL SHOW!
Silently screaming inside in order to not destroy her image
PUT ME DOWN!
!!
Whoa!
Whoa!

...NIRE-SAN,
YOUR CLOTHES REALLY HIDE YOUR FIGURE
It's at least 65C
This guy
WHACK
BASH
OUCH! THAT HURTS!
What's he doing ?!
KAT-SURAGI-SENPAI!!
If Katsuragi-senpai sees me...
NIRE-SAN...
I HEARD YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH HIM
NO... WAY...

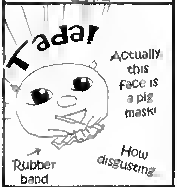
tinkle tinkle tinkle tinkletinkle tinkle tinkle
Gone up...
into smoke...
HAPPINESS
My dream of
DREAM
FREEDOM
A trophy husband
All my efforts
TROPHY HUSBAND
MONEY
all of them
EFFORT
Impossible
NIRE-SAN...
YOU'RE A LOT MORE OUTGOING THAN I THOUGHT!
Even though you usually act so serious
CRUMBLE
THIS... CAN'T GET ANY WORSE...
TEARS
GONE
AH!
Uh-oh
faint
Why is she always fainting?
Ah

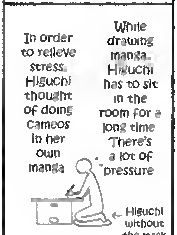
Just let me ...
...die already!
She's crying!
AH, SHE'S AWAKE!
YOU WERE ASLEEP FOR FIVE HOURS! WE WERE SO WORRIED!
Whew
Sis!
Spring
WHY...
Ah! Don't get up so suddenly!

Why are you...
Oi...
WHAT A WONDERFUL FAMILY!
YOUR SIBLINGS ARE SO CUTE!
Tsubaki weak when it comes to money
What's broiled beef? What does it taste like?
AH, I MADE DINNER. WANT SOME?
It's my specialty! broiled beef and nato buns
You've never eaten it!
Never even heard of it!
Yup
ALSO,
All the money I won went to pay the taxi driver!
AH, IT WAS PRETTY TOUGH!
HE WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU HOME!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
All buddy-buddy
Even if you get carried away...
...you still have to stop at some point!!
GO HOME!
Yell
Ah, the house
Damn it
YELL
Aaahh, sis's gone berserk!!
Snap...
Three for 1000 yen underwear
Even though the color isn't that nice
I DID THE LAUNDRY AS WELL ♡
I'm Alba Tsubaki and I are really close
You're her mother?!
This guy
Ugh
This guy...

Those who want to read this, please do!

Higuchi's Room -2-

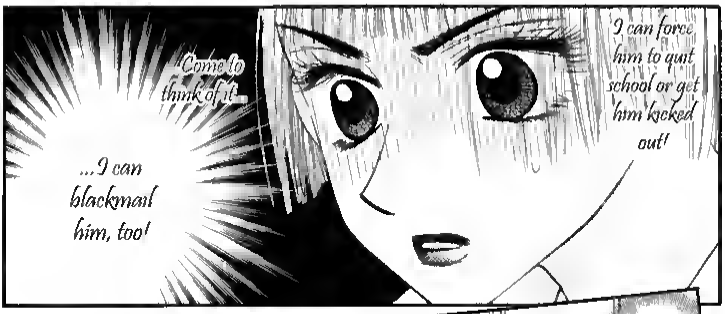



In order to relieve stress, Higuchi thought of doing cameos in her own manga
While drawing manga, Higuchi has to sit in the room for a long time. There's a lot of pressure
Higuchi without the mask

I want to answer but it's so embarrassing
But cowardly Higuchi doesn't have the courage to use her real face...
After much thought, she decided to wear a mask

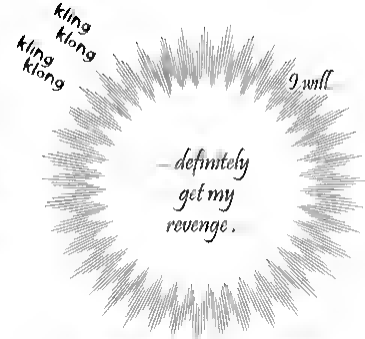
To be continued

So,
I'LL BE VISITING YOUR HOUSE OFTEN IN THE FUTURE..
♡
No way!!! Nire-san! (sob)
Forced to drink with him all night
Chirp Chirp
no way
LAST NIGHT WAS REALLY FUN!
Whisper Whisper
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME SEEING NIRE-SAN ACTING SO PASSIONATE!
I'M SO HAPPY


I can force him to quit school or get him kicked out!
Come to think of it...
...I can blackmail him, too!

GLINT
by Hamurabi
A tooth for a tooth!

RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
ZOOM
Ah! Damn
Ah, once he threatened a university student too
Aiba used to go out with a married woman
Camera borrowed from the Photography Club


kling klong kling klong
I will definitely get my revenge.

SIGH...

Aiba's criminal actions investigation report + evidence (cigarettes + photos)
SIGH...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HM
I DIDN'T THINK NIRE-SAN'S PASTIMES
..INCLUDED STEALING..
Ah
Grin.....
Camera
Mask
After school
Klang klang
Klang klang
Alba! Stop showing off!
SO WHERE SHOULD WE GO TODAY? ♡
COME TO THINK OF IT... NIRE-SAN
WHY DO YOU HIDE THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
They're pretty nice!
Click
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND...

Please use this, Captain! ♡
But I want to understand!
Kae-sunae-sempai ♡
I GET IT...
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET INTO THE UPPERCLASS SOCIETY
He's pure-bred!
PISSED OFF
No!!
ALL THIS EFFORT TO PUT ON AN ELABORATE ACT— What's it all for?
SO THAT IS WHY YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD A trophy husband...
Wha
What do you mean by just?

HUG
KISS♡
I UNDERSTAND
You don't know the suffering of being poor...the suffering of not having any freedom!
What do you know!?
Senpai!♡
It can't be stopped when it comes to the suffering of being poor
PULL
NIRE-SAN!
I'M DEFINITELY MUCH BETTER THAN HIM!
Besides,
I'LL MAKE YOU RICH!
(That's what I think)
FWIP!
...YOU... YOU... YOU...
YOU LICKED MY EAR!
YUCK
It's been awhile since I've seen such a strange reaction
OOOH, SO CUTE ...♡

SHOCK
POUR
NIRE-SAN!
I seem to have gone a little too far
WHY MUST YOU
DO THIS TO ME...?
EH?
ARE YOU HAVING FUN
MAKING MY LIFE DIFFI-CULT?

POUR
WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST ME?
Stupid?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE ...
...I LIKE YOU, NIRE-SAN!
Ugh
It was all just a bet!!
YOU LIAR !
Well, it did start out like that.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I LONG FOR FREEDOM...
I'VE PUT UP WITH ALL SORTS OF SUFFERING TO GET TO WHERE I AM TODAY
drip
drip
BUT YOU..
Uh... Ou...
Tachibanan
Uhh... U...
...ANYWAY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FIRST!
SHE'S TOTALLY LOST IT...
I'LL TREAT YOU TO DINNER!

HOW ABOUT A DRINK FOR THE BOTH OF US?
And something to eat...
A beer...
Ice cream!
Courtesy of Aiba →
How unexpected for you to come here!
MY! IF IT ISN'T RIKU!
"OLD WOMEN, YOUNG GIRLS, BAR GIRLS, MARRIED WOMEN, OFFICE GIRLS – AIBA GOES FOR THEM ALL!"
HA HA HA
GIRLFRIEND?
YEAH!
Hmm
DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL! SHE IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
HELLO, I'M NIRE, A RECENT ACQUAINTANCE OF AIBA'S.
NIRE-SAN, THIS IS MY
Smile
Smile
Professional
HI, I'M RIKU'S MOTHER
WHA...
...T
36 years old (S note)
SHE RAN OFF WITH SOME OTHER GUY WHEN I WAS STILL LITTLE,
AND LEFT WITH ME WITH DAD. SHE MADE DAD GET HER THIS SHOP AS COMPENSATION
My dad's still helping her pay off her debts
ANYWAY...
Don't be shy, ask anything you want. It's not like she's all that respectable.

Dividing a 3 person cake into 5 pieces
LIVING HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER
WARM AND COMFORTABLE
DEPENDING ON EACH OTHER...
WHO'S BEING SHY?
Yes, that's what I'm talking about
heap
YOUR FAMILY IS GREAT
FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME
Eat and let's go
I didn't mean it that way!
Well sorry! We have to depend on each other to live!
I'M NOT THAT LUCKY. I'M STILL LIVING ALONE RIGHT NOW...
My dad remarried
He's using his "grief" and lonely trick on girls again
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LONG FOR IT, SUCH A FAMILY IS BEYOND MY REACH
WHICH IS WHY I WONDER WHETHER LYING TO YOUR FAMILY
...IS REALLY WORTH IT?

DID YOU ...
...COME ALL THIS WAY,
BECAUSE YOU LOVE SENPAI?
...DID YOU?
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
IS THE HAPPINESS YOU LONG FOR
MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR FAMILY—?
huff
huff
huff
.He left me speechless.
Today's Menu
Leftovers from Aika's mom's shop (Took everything home)
That Aiba, acting so high and mighty
Why should I listen to him?
I've always been fully dedicated to my family
Meow!
Now I can finally live for myself What's wrong with that?
The bones can be used to make soup so don't throw them away
Pizza
(Is something like a 16 year old should say?)

It's not like I look down on my family
STARE
AOTAKE,
Crafts session
WOULD YOU FEEL LONELY IF I WASN'T AROUND...?
EH?
Don't talk about such things!!
Nooo!!
HMM
Let's see
Cruel fate...
IF IT MEANS GETTING TO EAT GOOD FOOD (LIKE BROILED BEEF), THEN IT'S OK.
TWITCH
Walk
What's wrong?
"So it's not worth getting all depressed over something so trivial"
You need to work on how you console people...
"I don't think you like senpai all that much!"
Hmph

DAZE
...AND THAT'S HOW IT IS...
NIRE-SAN! No matter how much I fret about it, what happened yesterday cannot be erased... Sigh.. Defeated
HEY, WANNA PLAY POKER?
I can't get into a university now
Idiot, there's no way she'd join
senpai forever...
I can't latch on to
You never know!
Come on, Nire-san ♡
I'M GAME!
I don't think there'll ever be a second senpai in this world...
Eh
Oh♡
But, even so
BUT ONLY IF WE'RE GAMBLING!
oohh...
Bravo!
maybe
Royal Straight Flush!
Whoa
Cool!
That's amazing!
there are still other paths to follow
Invincible when money is involved.

I'LL USE THE MONEY FOR NEXT YEAR'S SCHOOL TRIP...
This doesn't mean I've completely given up on my dream
living happily without a single care in the world,
might not be so bad
It's just that being like this right now...
Was Nire-san like that before...?
Lately those two are really close!
SENPAI ...
NIRE-SAN!

I...
...LIKE YOU, NIRE-SAN.
THE REAL TRUTH...
I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHERS SAY
I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU...
...ALWAYS HOPED IT WAS JUST A RUMOR.
I'VE...
I HOPE YOU'LL GO OUT WITH ME...
No way...
I didn't expect this at all...
...he's still so concerned about me...
To think that after all that's happened...
SENPAI...

... the dream I gave up on, has returned to me...?
Does this mean...!
Unbelievable...
I WANT TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER
There won't be another chance like this!
Don't bother yourself with that other guy...!
Say it!!! Say "Yes"! Tsubaki!!
Huh...
Tsubaki
Just now...
NIRE-SAN?
"And then I'll be able to embrace my dream..."
"Do you really like senpai?"

DAZE
...just say "Yes"...
Why didn't I?
PLEASE LET ME CONSIDER
During such a crucial moment...
I'M SORRY
I can't believe it...
...his face appeared in my mind...
...HEY
fshh...
YOU CAN FINALLY GO OUT WITH SENPAI!
THAT'S GREAT!

Huh ?
What's he talking about...
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT?
Ssshh...
GOOD WORK! EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T LIKE HIM,
ALL THAT EFFORT YOU PUT INTO YOUR ACT FINALLY PAID OFF!
HUH?
WEREN'T THE TWO OF YOU CHATTING MERRILY HERE A MOMENT AGO?
I'M JUST CONGRATULATING YOU ON GETTING YOUR TROPHY HUSBAND!
Hmph!
IT'S NOTHING
EH?
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET IN MY WAY AGAIN ?
GO ON THEN! GO REVEAL EVERYTHING!
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
EVEN IF YOU DID THAT, SENPAI WOULD STILL BELIEVE ME!

WHETHER I WANT A TROPHY HUSBAND OR NOT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
click
click
YEAH...
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
A WOMAN AS IGNORANT AS YOU...
DON'T WORRY!
I WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN! NOT EVEN AT YOUR REQUEST!
"REQUEST"?
I'M THE ONE WHO IS HAPPY ABOUT THIS!

DEPRESSED
NOT ENOUGH SLEEP
DAZE
HUNGRY
ANGRY
Chirp Chirp Chirp
Chip
Morning
Chatter
Chatter
Whisper
Whisper
Tsk Tsk Tsk
"Whether I want a trophy husband or not has nothing to do with you!"
WHISPERING BEHIND MY BACK
REALLY! HOW ANNOYING
Don't they have anything better to do?
Slide...

Her true natured
After senpai's fortune
Split personality!
Two-timing slut!
This is Her real Nine Tubelutt
Go on then! Go reveal everything!"
"All that effort you put into your act finally paid off!"
Murmur
Even though you don't like him
"Good work!
Twit
This...
"Senpai would still believe me!"
This is...?!
<Chapter 2/End>

Swan Lake Credits

By Higuchi Tachibana
Chapter 3

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Why is everyone trying to destroy my dream?
Why do these things keep happening to me?
I want to be free.
I just...
...want to escape from the endless housework and having to worry about money.
I want to live a life of luxury...
But,
...the status that I finally attained after enduring years of hardship
And just when I thought the nightmare was about to end...
was completely destroyed by that jerk, Aiba.
FALSE PRIDE
EFFORT
HUNGER
ENDURANCE
ACTING SKILLS
SMILES

SHOCK
NIRE-SAN!
HATANO-SENPAI!
HEY, IS IT TRUE?
WHAT A SHOCKING RECORDING.
The message on the board too
IF IT IS TRUE,
THEN NIRE IS QUITE A SHOCKER!
How scary
..She's the one behind this..
So completely obvious
This..
Two-timing slut!
Just who..?!
ACT.3

Senpai
HEY
IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING, I'LL CONSIDER IT TRUE
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KATSURAGI-KUN?
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?
there is no way I'll ever be able to get out of this.
...But, it's true that.
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT!
This person ...
With this, I've eliminated my rival..
I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR EXPLANATIONS!

This time...
KATSURAGI-KUN...
BUT...
THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND NIRE-SAN!
Because all of it...
is true...
eh
DON'T BE NOSY, HATANO!
Aahhh...
no escape
clutch
...there really is.
BUT AS LONG AS IT HASN'T YET BEEN CLARIFIED
I DON'T KNOW WHO DID IT,
clutch
Everything's gone back...
My dream and my effort...
...HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
WHAT...? IT CAN'T GET ANY CLEARER THAN THIS!
...to the drawing board...
BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE IS RIGHT HERE!!
clutch
will all fade to nothing

BAM
HEY, HEY ...
AIBA ...
YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY ARROGANT, YOU KNOW THAT?
tap
tap
HMM
tap
WHAT A LOAD OF NON-SENSE
WHA...
What do you mean "nonsense"?
THIS HERE IS DEFINITELY NON-SENSE!
Something like this.
eh...?

Of course, everyone already knew that... (Except Katsuragi-senpai)
SO ALL OF IT WAS YOUR DOING ...
Pissed Off...
OH ..
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
I was there!
IT WAS ..
BAP
DRAMA PRACTICE !
MY FRIEND'S DOING A PLAY,
AND HE KEPT ASKING ME TO GET NIRE-SAN TO JOIN
I HAD TO PESTER HER FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE SHE FINALLY TRIED A FEW LINES!
ALL RIGHT,
THAT IS ALL THERE IS TO IT
JEEZ...
What a big fuss about nothing...!
What?
What is the meaning of this ...?!
THAT'S COMPLETE NONSENSE !
ohh
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
Any evidence?

THIS IS THE LAST TIME.
I WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN!
whisper
YOU WERE MISUNDER-STOOD BECAUSE OF ME
I'M SORRY...
PASS...
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
Besides, Nire-san's such a beauty
I thought so
So that's how it was

Those who want to read this, please do!

Higuchi's Room -3-

After wearing the mask, ah how mysterious...
the cowardly Higuchi disappears and becomes a showy person!
It's a pig mask but that doesn't mean I like pigs!
It's just that during home economics, I had fun using leftover cloth to make masks
Actually, I do like them
I made snake, frog and puppy dolls too
And so there's just a little more space in this 1/4 column
So everyone should know by now right? "The reason Higuchi is a pig"
On a side note, Higuchi will now correct the common myth that "Higuchi pretends to be a pig because, ay, she's fat"
by yelling "I'm not thin but I'm not fat either!"
And so it ends
It's finally over

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO...
PREPARE A SCRIPT. FOR ME...?
AT THAT TIME
I HAD ALREADY NOTICED!
FLASHBACK
EH ..
THEY SET UP A CAMERA
BEHIND YOU
WHA
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE A THING!
I WAS ALSO PRETTY ANGRY AT THAT TIME, SO

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THEN ...?
HELPING YOU OUT WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS,
BUT I'M PRETTY NICE, HELPING YOU TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND AND ALL
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAPPEN
SO I made my preparations...
Besides I got to see you cornered
ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER BEING TOGETHER...
I WAS JUST KILLING TIME...
Eh...
What does he mean...
THAT'S ALL!
SO...
by this?
I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH SENPAI.
Ah
A bit fun!
HEY
Pass...

Such cold eyes ...
Just right now...
Eyes filled with apathy...
Nire-san!
All this time that...
I want a family like yours
He was just...
...we were together...
...killing time...

... What the hell?!
...hmph
Don't mess with me!!
You think you can just bully and toy with someone poor like me just to kill time?!
Oh! So that's how it is!
Then I really am an idiot...
...HMM? OH, DEAR! THE MOS-QUITO FLEW AWAY...
CRAK
HO HO HO HO HO HO
SHH
...Hmph!

Why did it turn out this way..?
melancholy
Alba
Play poker?
Nire can do you wanna
Dunno
Ah what happened to that play?

EVER SINCE THAT DAY,
AIBA SEEMS TO BE GOING OUT WITH GIRLS ALL THE TIME
Doesn't matter who it is
HE'S BACK TO HIS OLD WAYS!
WHEN HE WAS WITH NIRE-SAN, HE WOULDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO ANY OTHER GIRLS!
ALSO
Ig—nore
EVER SINCE THAT DAY,
THEY SEEM TO HAVE GONE SEPARATE WAYS
So different from before
Eating her lunchbox alone (she's still scared of showing her miserable food to others)

He seemed so happy when he was with Nire-san
I'm not at all interested
You've got a wonderful family!
...in him!
My bond with my family isn't that strong
So why am I...?
FLASHBACK
toss
Giggle
Reckless
Angry
WENT TO PICK IT UP.
RUSTLE...
NIRE-SAN!
And then
SENPAI!

RUSTLE
I HOPE YOU HAVE A DEFINITE REPLY
TO MY CONFESSION LAST TIME...
SENPAI...
I...
.....
TELL ME YOUR TRUE FEELINGS...
I... KNEW YOU'D REJECT ME...
...I CAN TELL...
FROM THE WAY YOU LOOK AT AIBA...
WHOOSH
SENPAI...
BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO GIVE UP ON YOU,
SO I KEPT PRETENDING TO BE CLUELESS...

NIRE-SAN, YOU'VE
NOTICED, RIGHT?
Wooosh
...SENPAI,
I...
UWA!
THUMP
GACK
"Thump" ?
"GACK" ?
!

This is...
NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
.....
AH...
Nire sensei...
GASP
FWIP
AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO NOSY?
grr..
YOU'RE ALONE TOO! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR GIRLS?
...WHY ARE YOU HERE ALONE?
WHERE IS YOUR TROPHY HUSBAND?
...HUH?
I GUESS HE WAS INFLUENCED BY THAT LAST INCIDENT!
That sempai...
...never have anything good to say about each other...
These two...
A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT WON'T LAST LONG!
SIGH...
PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE ELSE SO YOU CAN GO OUT WITH SOMEONE

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
...DIDN'T YOU START GOING OUT WITH SENPAI AFTER HE CONFESSED TO YOU?
I'm saying
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU TWO JUST STARTED GOING OUT, YET THERE'S ALREADY A WALL, HUH?
With senpai
...HUH?
...
...JUST WHO AM I GOING OUT WITH?!
...EH?
I'm saying
IDIOT....?
WHO AGREED?
(Weren't you watching?)
HE WANTED TO GO OUT WITH ME.
BUT I DIDN'T SAY YES!
...EH...
...GASP
...
...

...WHY?
...UH ...
I WONDER WHY...
...JEEZ!
Ah! Ah!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
I'm not listening to you!
WAS IT BECAUSE OF ME ?
...WHAT IS WITH YOU..
...ALWAYS ASSUMING THINGS...
Like an idiot

THEN...
JUST A MOMENT AGO...
YOU MET WITH SENPAI HERE...
AND REJECTED HIM...?
.....
OI!
WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANY-THING?
HEY, HEY!
...DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T REJECT HIM...
IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!
Don't be nosy!
This is my own busi-ness!
What did my heart speed up for?!
WHY DID YOU NOT RE-JECT HIM?
BE-CAUSE I...
STILL CAN'T GIVE UP MY DREAM OF MAR-RYING A TROPHY HUS-BAND!

Rewind
Senpai and me a moment ago
SENPAI
I...
I'M STILL UN-SURE OF MY FEEL-INGS
SO I CAN'T GO OUT WITH EITHER OF YOU
WHILE I'M STILL CON-FUSED
NIRE-SAN
I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOUR HEART CHOOSES ME!
SENPAI
This girl...
I CAN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY!
EVEN IF YOU SAY I'M "IGNO-RANT"...
I'VE ALWAYS,
DEPENDED ON THIS DREAM OF MINE TO GO ON...
I'VE.. PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO COMING THIS FAR!
IF YOU SAY YOU LIKE THIS SIDE OF ME..

NIRE-SAN...
YES, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
A woman who won't give up her dreams
I've never felt this humiliated before
SO YOU'RE PURPOSELY MAKING A TWO-TIMING ANNOUNCE-MENT
NO...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
PERHAPS FROM THE VERY BE-GINNING,
I WAS ATTRACTED TO THIS SIDE OF YOU...

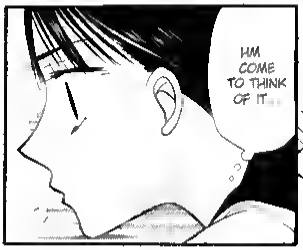
...THEN PLEASE PUT A LITTLE MORE EFFORT...
INTO CLOSING THIS DIS-TANCE BETWEEN US...
AND MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE...

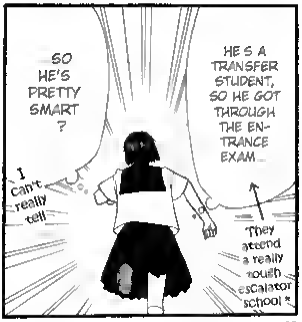
I GUESS IT'S LIKE THAT SAYING "BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BE-HOLDER"..
What is he...
Sigh
Although I never really liked that saying--
saying...?
I WILL DEFI-NITELY
SO PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER!
HELP YOU BECOME A RICH AND PAMPERED WIFE!
KISS♡
ONE DAY YOU MIGHT SUDDENLY FIND
THAT MY FUTURE HOLDS GREATER POSSIBILITIES COMPARED TO HIS!

THIS IS MY KISS OF PROMISE ...
...TO YOU!
IF I WAIT FOR YOU,
I'D STILL BE POOR EVEN AS AN OLD LADY!
DIZZY...
Sigh
Are...
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
Nire-san...
Gah...
Saliva!!!
ewww...
Gya
UGH
UGH?
Your face is all red

Ha ha ha ha!
WELL, WHO ASKED YOU TO...
YOU STILL SAY THAT EVEN THOUGH YOUR FACE IS ALL RED!
You're not persuasive at all!
SHUT UP! gya SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
DASH
Hm ♡ SO happy....
...He's...
...the first...
...to like this side of me...

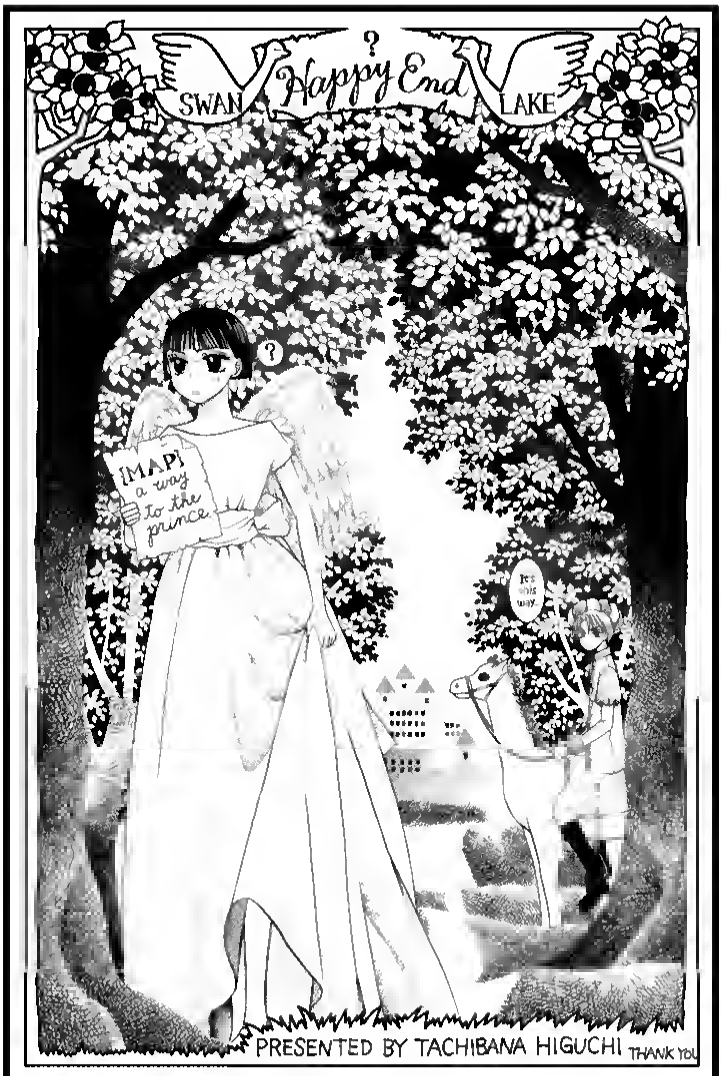
*Translator's Note: An escalator school is a school where students automatically graduate from middle school to high school without taking exams.




SO HE'S PRETTY SMART ?
HE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT, SO HE GOT THROUGH THE ENTRANCE EXAM...
I can't really tell...
They attend a really rough escalator school *

Not the swan gliding gracefully on the lake surface,
And just because of something so trivial,
but the one furiously paddling below the surface. .
The one who's far from being perfect
...it feels as though I've grown wings...
He says. .
...that he likes this side of me..

CLICK...
I'M HOME.
SLAM
I'm back!
CLICK
I GUESS SHE STILL WANTS
Tonight's dinner
Don't ask if you're unprepared
A TROPHY HUSBAND, HUH
Chuu
kssh
GULP...
.....
Sigh
I GUESS MY FAMILY ISN'T RICH ENOUGH
At least by her standards
Living alone in such a big house...
Changing the Subject
Ah, that's right!
I HEAR THAT AIBA-KUN'S FATHER IS A FAMOUS PRODUCER IN NEW YORK!
WOW THAT'S AMA-ZING!
Snack time in the Nire household
(dividing one burger into four parts)


SWAN
Happy End ?
LAKE
?
[MAP]
a way
to the
prince
It's this way!
PRESENTED BY TACHIBANA HIGUCHI
THANK YOU

Swan Lake Credits

By Higuchi Tachibana
Chapter 4

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Mermaid

I don't understand it at all,
but any time that I see Miwa-sensei, my chest aches.
TAJIMA-SAN, BRING ME THE DISINFECTANT
...avoiding eye contact with sensei
Therefore, I am always...
It hurts so much I can't say anything
Under the sea ...
It's as if I'm under the sea ...
Whenever I'm with sensei,
I can't breathe...
...could it be...
GASP
Thanks
twitch twitch
Infirmary committee member

When the witch talked about my "fated love"...
could she have been
referring to this...?
Pitch-black
Listen to me, mermaid princess,
and listen carefully!
As a human,
you'll have to look for the prince's reincarnation and obtain his love!
I'm... I'm so happy!
Ah, but granny!
What?
Your love with the prince shattered,
and so you drifted like a bubble in the sea for centuries
eh
I've decided to give you a chance!
I'll let you be reincarnated as a human!

How would I be able to recognize the prince's reincarnation?
He he
Don't worry!
When your reincarnation reaches the appropriate age, you'll definitely fall in love with the prince's reincarnation.
How can you say that for certain?
But what if I fall in love with someone else?
Didn't I tell you not to worry?!
If the person you fall for is the prince,
your memories of your life in the sea will resurface.
O~H
That's right!
If you can endure this...
and capture his heart within a week, you'll live happily ever after with him as a human
You'll regain your ability to speak as well!
And if I can't?
Also,
you will lose your ability to speak when you're with him
He He He
Mermaid's Voice
Eh? Again?!

eh~
You'll become a bubble and disappear forever!
I'm sure you're familiar with the situation.
Goodbye
eh~
That's right... I'm the reincarnation of that mermaid...
My fate will be decided.
...one week from the day I fall for him...
SENSEI! IS THE PRINCE'S REINCARNATION?
COULD IT BE THAT...
Regaining memories of the sea
Losing the ability to speak
All of these conditions fit, but I don't know if this is love
I've been a bubble in the sea for several hundred years. I've long forgotten what love is all about...
The feeling of being alive..

HOW CAN I CAPTURE SENSEI'S HEART,
IF I CAN'T EVEN TALK TO HIM?
If this is love ...
DING DONG DING DONG
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Sensei! I got hurt!
THAT TAJIMA-SAN...
I don't wanna be a bubble!
Never again!
-Awawawa
SHE SEEMS A BIT WEIRD
OH, HER!
SHE IS A LITTLE BIT STRANGE! VERY DIFFERENT!
She seems to be avoiding me
munch
ChipS
The Little Mermaid
SHE'S REALLY MYSTERIOUS!
And beautiful, too!
ALL OF THE GUYS ARE QUITE TAKEN BY HER
SHE R. RELY LETS HER FEELINGS SHOW ON HER FACE.
yeah
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: IN JAPAN THE LITTLE MERMAID IS TRANSLATED AS THE MERMAID PRINCESS.

TAJIMA-SAN!
SWP
I'm next ♥
Ah, sensei, take a photo with me! ♥
LOOK, WE MADE A "MOST POPULAR GIRL" POLL,
AND YOU'RE FIRST!
News club
1. Tajima-san
2. Pig-san
3. Rabbit-chan
4. Pumpkin-san
WE'D LIKE TO TAKE A PHOTO, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU—
PRETTY PLEASE—!
You've gotta smile ♥
Staee...
HMPH!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD HELP IT!
Cause Miwa-sensei is so handsome!
WHY'D YOU COPY US?
What did you say?!
DON'T WORRY! NO ONE WILL EVER VOTE FOR YOU!
HEY, YOU! WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?!
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LIMITED TO STUDENTS, AND YET MIWA-SENSEI RANKED FIRST!
YOU GIRLS DID IT, TOO!
HUH? WHAT'S WITH YOU GIRLS?
What's this most popular girl poll, anyway?
ARE YOU GUYS IDIOTS?
USING OTHERS TO GET WHAT YOU WANT!
Tajima will be troubled!

Useless! You shit! She's ignoring you!! HAHAHAHA
Is unsure of how to react
AH I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING AND THEY'RE LEAVING ...
tmPtmPtmP
1 Minute
She's still thinking...
RAGE
JEEZ! TAJIMA-SAN, IGNORE THEM!
WHY DON'T WE GO CHAT OVER THERE?
Stare
I...
It seems that I have trouble communicating, not only with senses, but also with others...
SHUT UP! THAT ALOOF ATTITUDE IS PART OF HER APPEAL!
I GUESS IT'S NOT TOO NICE TO EAT MY SNACKS WITHOUT SHARING ANY .
En...
PRAP
CHIPS
But...
PUSH
TURN
CHIPS
I know that...
I might be missing that little bit of human emotion...
Since I used to be a bubble

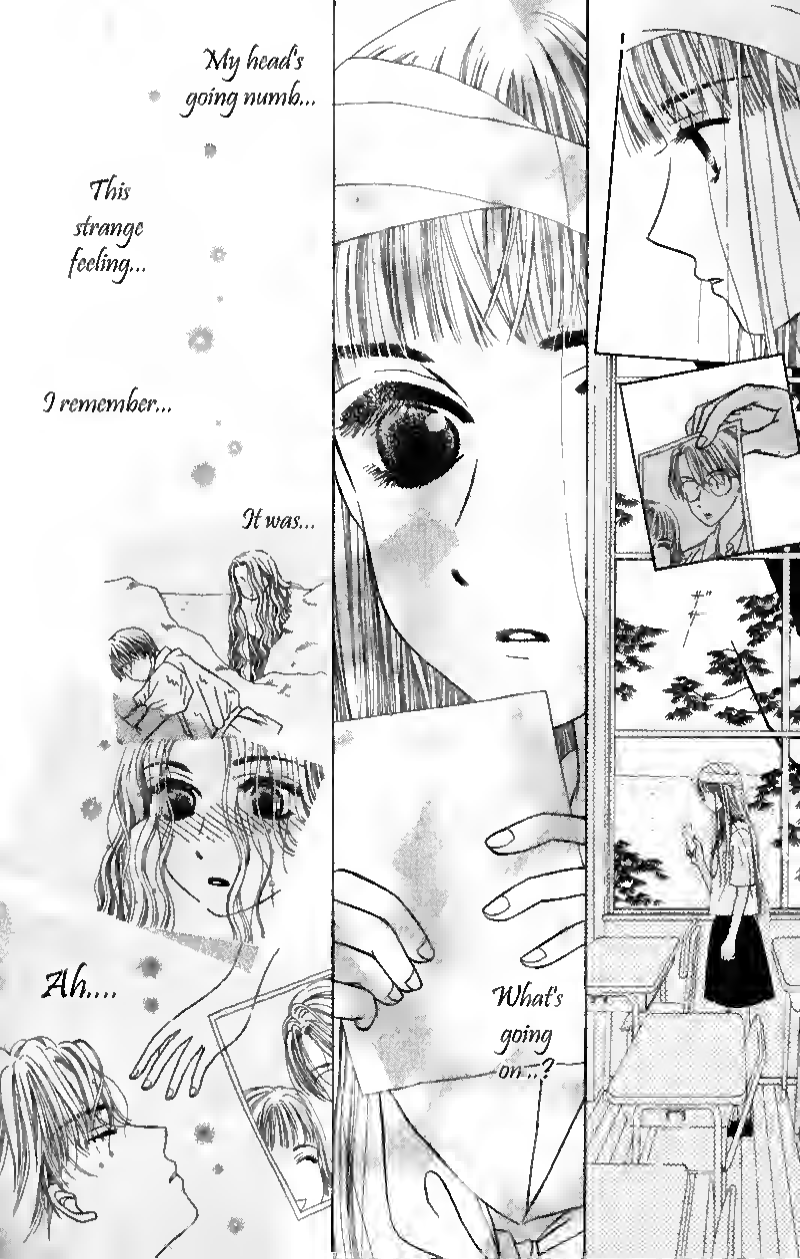
It would be great if we could get along nicely...
However, whenever I face someone, I just can't do it...
If I think carefully before acting, I should be able to resolve the situation
It's all right now.
She's really weird
as long as I put some effort in it there should be a turning point...
Even if I can't talk, and even if it's somebody I have difficulty facing,
If I can do that, there will at least be some kind of interaction between the two of us
when the week is up
Infirmary
I have to be brave...
That's right!
It'll be worth a try...
in order to avoid becoming a bubble...
TAJIMA-SAN, ARE YOU ALWAYS SO TIMID?

But...
HE SPOKE TO ME
I... I'VE GOT TO ANSWER HIM
Ah
I can't speak...
But... but I've got to say something...
The water pressure around me is rising...
The air's pressing against me...
What should I do...? Sensei's still waiting for my answer
My head feels like it's going to explode!
I can't speak
What to do?
What to do?
TAJIMA-SAN?
...I don't know how to breathe

HEY... HEY!
Stare
GASP
INCH
SHOVE
AH!
slip
CRASH

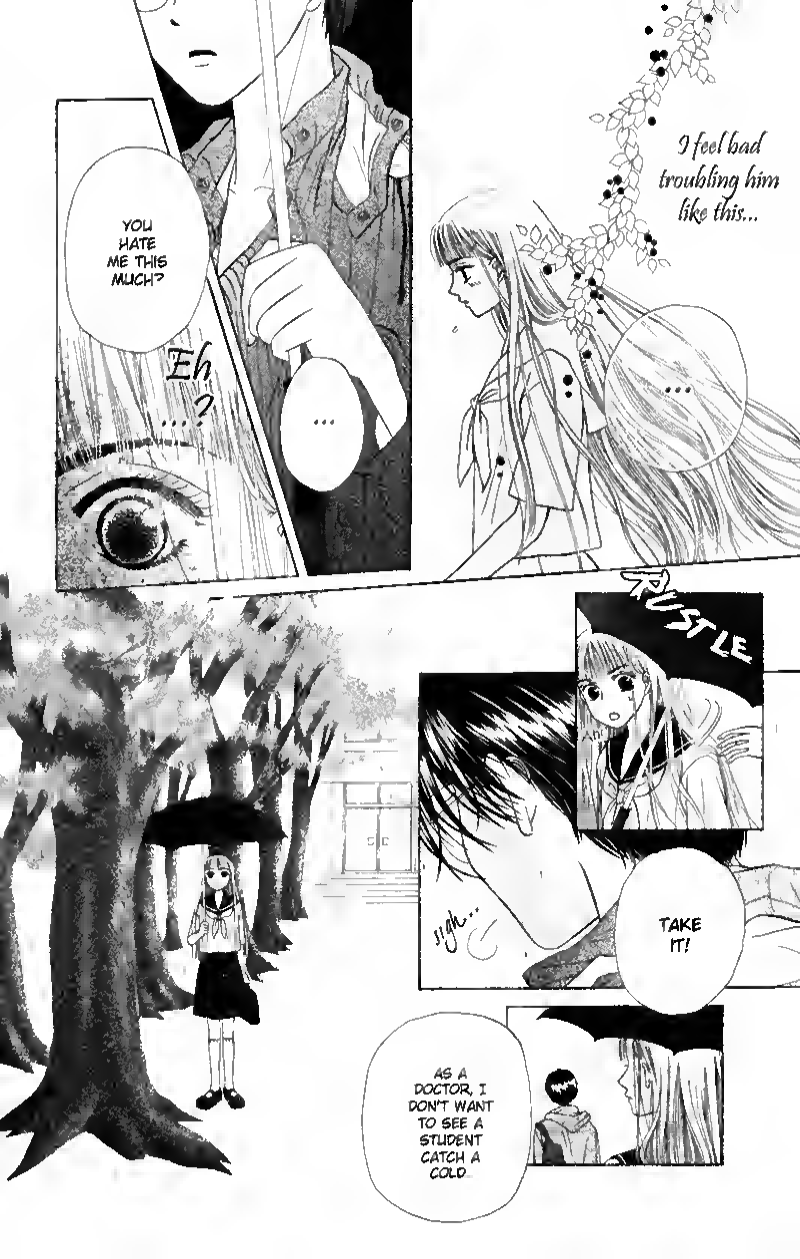
Whaw
Whaw
THUD
Whaw
Ahh
Puppy Dresset
CRASH
I...
....really am an idiot...
...
Rumors...
What's up with the bandages them?
are so inconceivable...
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT TAJIMA-SAN YET?
APPARENTLY, SHE HATES TALKING TO AND BREATHING THE SAME AIR AS MIWA-SENSEI SO MUCH THAT SHE STOPPED BREATHING AND ALMOST DIED!
How freaky!
She's so weird!
YEAH, AND I HEARD THAT SHE GOT SO ANGRY WHEN MIWA-SENSEI TOUCHED HER THAT SHE PUSHED HIM DOWN!
WHY DOES TAJIMA-SAN HATE MIWA-SENSEI THAT MUCH?

...but even so, what can I do?
If this goes on, there's no way I'll capture sensei's heart...
He might already hate me
ding dong ding dong
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO BECOME A BUBBLE...
After several hundred years, I finally have a chance...
And yet, I've forgotten what love is all about...
...muttering to myself in this corner...
Refer to Andersen's The Little Mermaid
A RANDOM PRINCESS STOLE THE CREDIT FOR RESCUING THE PRINCE
I'VE ALWAYS been such an idiot.
Completely empty
However...
I should go home
Eh, school's already over.


My head's going numb...
This strange feeling...
I remember...
It was...
Ah....
What's going on...?

These are...
my feelings as they were then...
I'd...
...forgotten that love...
In the act of stealing
IT'S JUST DRIZZLING
click click click
(the sound of heeled shoes)
...
Forgot to bring an umbrella
Shower

EVEN IF IT'S ONLY DRIZZLING, IT'S NO GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!
GET IN! I'LL SEND YOU TO THE STATION!
...
what should I do?
In this situation, I should get under his umbrella
But I want to apologize for my actions earlier—
Sensei...
...his shoulder is all wet...
Ah!
stopped breathing
Woosh


I feel bad troubling him like this...
...
YOU HATE ME THIS MUCH?
Eh ...?
...
RUSTLE
Ahh
Ugh...
TAKE IT!
AS A DOCTOR, I DON'T WANT TO SEE A STUDENT CATCH A COLD

Sensei is angry with me ...?
I was just trying to be considerate...
HAVE YOU NOTICED?
IT SEEMS THAT MIWA-SENSEI HAS BEEN AVOIDING TAJIMA-SAN RECENTLY!
YEAH!
IT'S BECAUSE TAJIMA-SAN'S ALWAYS SO COLD AND ALOOF TO HIM!
SHE MAY LOOK GENTLE, BUT HER PERSONALITY'S PRETTY BAD!
She's always so sullen. What a freak!
Cold...
Aloof...
Shocks
So that's what they all think...

SENSEI, THANKS FOR THE UMBRELLA!
IT WAS A BIG HELP!
OH, YOU'RE WELCOME
I always bring my foldable umbrella
You'll have to help me out next time!
Jeez, Sensei!! Hahaha!
Eh? What do we help with?
If only I could be like that, too...
If only I could laugh naturally like that...
That's right...
...
BORROWED UMBRELLA
nobody seems to realize I am
Watching TV without an expression... what a strange child
But even if I do laugh,
I don't have any confidence in my smile
munch...
After all, I've been in a bubble for centuries...
Thanks for the umbrella
Mom Tsuma
← Homemade oden

If I write it down..
then I may be able to express what I want to say..
Rather than speech
Mun...
...
seaweed
shellfish
squid
sea urchin
algae
salmon roe
sashimi
Tajima's favourite foods (all of them are raw)
TAJIMA-SAN!
Twitch
Here it comes!
WHAT YOU CAN SAY IN PERSON,
I MAY BE A BIT HARSH IN SAYING THIS,
BUT IF YOU WRITE ON PAPER
IT REALLY GIVES OFF AN UNPLEASANT FEELING!

Ah...
YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING, SO I TAKE IT THIS ISN'T YOURS?
IS THIS BENTO STILL ALL RIGHT?
I'm an idiot
Juice of it has gone bad
EVEN IF YOU HATE ME,
YOU COULD AT LEAST ANSWER MY QUESTIONS
...dug my own grave again...
Lost and Found Box
...
!?
How gloomy ...
The air rolling off sensei,
is unusually gloomy...
and heavy ...
Sensei probably...
hates me now...

...what should I do?
I'm so shocked that...
I'm on the verge of tears...
DROOP
I can only watch and reflect silently
I haven't improved... at all
I'm just repeating my past mistakes
it can't be helped.
The way I am now, even if I turn into a bubble again,
But this is something that...
I've brought upon myself.
Since I never expressed myself clearly,
and kept running away instead...
UGH...
I'LL JUST GO HOME
...
I just wanna cry
But if I cry here
he'll say I'm really weird
...things will get worse...
If I go home like this without thinking of a solution...
If I just try to escape...

Eh ...?
WOOSH
DROP...
But I don't want to.
...dig my...
WOOSH
...own grave again...
FWIP

No way ...
!!
Wobble
Absolute darkness...
Things can't get any worse than this!

...I should ask him to pick it up for me...
Sensei should be aware... ...of the current situation, right?
Hey!
-whoosh-
.....
It's too quiet.
I can hear the whispers from the corridor outside
I can even hear my heart beat.
Ha ha ha ha...
What should I do?

...If Sensei sees that photo,
he'll accidentally find out my feelings for him.
Always running away...
Without the slightest improvement...
I'll just become a bubble again, anyway!
Accidentally...
...I've come so far!
I don't want it to happen that way!
If I don't want things to happen that way,
then I'll just have to...
pick up the photo myself...
Even if it's tragic,
it can't be helped...

whoosh...
whoosh...

Sigh
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT ME THAT YOU HATE SO MUCH.
Ah...
BUT IF YOU JUST ASKED, I'D PICK IT UP!
SO COULD YOU GIVE THE ATTITUDE A REST?
I can't speak...
No! That's not it...
I just don't want...
to run away again...
My own feelings...
I want to relay my feelings in my own way...
What's this?
I can't reach it!

Not by accident,
but by my own will
Both sides are so shocked that
their eyes have dilated.

Suddenly kissing sensei, and then fainting—

But for some reason,

I feel completely at ease now...

probably failed again...

I've become a fish
It's as though I've just been set free...
I'm swimming about without a care...
In the transparent blue sea...
...
ZZZZZZZ
...
It's already been two hours, but...
she's still not awake
...

High school girls these days still read fairy tales?
THE LITTLE MERMAID HUH...?
The Little Mermaid
Even now, I can't get her to let go of my hand... I'm kinda scared...
IF THE MERMAID PRINCESS HAD YOUR DETERMINATION AND ENDURANCE,
SHE MIGHT HAVE CAPTURED THE PRINCE'S HEART!

The week is almost up... *Sensei, can I become human...?*

Swan Lake Credits

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Chapter 5 – Story 3

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Frog Princess
Prologue
Going to school
hm...
What is she doing here? She's late for school!
(You are too!)
KIKUHIME YORIKO FROM MY CLASS
HM?!
THAT'S
IT CAN'T BE...?
EH... THE PLACE SHE JUST WALKED OUT OF
DASH
HEY, KIKU-HIME-
-SAN

Frog
Princess

KIKU-HIME-SAN!
All of a sudden
PI-TO PI-TO
"The sound of a pebble being tossed"
A frog
AH, GOOD!
I WOULD BE AT A LOSS IF YOU HADN'T NOTICED ME!
called out to me
I SAW YOU OVER THERE,
the person just now
ha
I CALLED OUT TO YOU BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME, SO I WAS ABOUT TO RUN AFTER YOU,
According to him,
BUT A FROG JUMPED OUT.
Stare
Ukai Tetsurou,
A talking frog
...

Frog Deity
Mainly warm (you were those
You've killed lots of small animals with that callous attitude of yours
Especially frogs, of which you've killed 99
There flashed a bright light, and the Frog Deity appeared before me...
When the frog appeared,
it was too late to stop.
hop
When I was about to step on it...
You were about to kill the 100th frog just now
Although it's a frog it's still a valuable life.
REALLY...?
From now on as punishment whenever you hear a certain word...
you will become a frog...
poof
Stare
HEREAFTER, EVERY TIME I HEAR "FROG" I'LL BECOME ONE,
AND I'LL ONLY RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER HEARING IT AGAIN...
That's what the old man said
...Is this a dream?
Pointless Food

Come to think of it,
ANYWAY, IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP IF YOU WOULD JUST BRING ME TO A SECLUDED PLACE AND RETURN ME TO NORMAL—
since it all happened so suddenly, I completely forgot
As heard by bystanders
CROAK
CROAK
CROAK
CROAK
THAT'S WHY I'M TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS.
Hey! What are you doing? That hurts!
Squeeze
Stare
It's real
IT'S NOT A DREAM
COULD YOU HELP ME BEFORE ANYBODY ELSE FINDS OUT?
Sigh
Obviously
NO ONE ELSE KNOWS ABOUT THIS!
ALSO, IT SEEMS TO BE THAT I CAN ONLY COMMUNICATE WITH YOU—
SHOW
Ack
you—
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
How disgusting...
Wipe
Wipe

I, Kikuhime Yoriko,
hate frogs
the most!
they're still going to school after all that
MY FANTASIES HAVE BEEN CRUSHED
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR ATTITUDE JUST NOW!
BACK TO NORMAL
AND YOU LOOK LIKE A PROPER LADY TOO
YOU SHUT UP! FROG MAN!
How disgusting don't come near me!
Goodbye!
I'LL BE GOING NOW CONTINUE YOUR MISERABLE EXISTENCE!
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
WHA—!! OI! WAIT UP!!
I'M NOT GOING TO HELP YOU!
Besides...
What idiot would be gentle to a frog...?
YOUR ATTITUDE REALLY STINKS, KIKUHIME-SAN!
POOT
I hate this guy!
EH
I HATE TROUBLESOME THINGS!

I'LL TELL EVERYONE WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW!
HOLD ON! YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE?!
WE FART WAYS HERE.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF "HELPING ONE ANOTHER"?
NOPE
...AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
RUMBLE
...YOU WALKED OUT OF A...
MATERNITY CLINIC!

CROAK CROAK CROAK
I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I INFORM THE SCHOOL AND YOUR FAMILY...
YOU WALKED OUT OF THAT CLINIC!
Which was why I didn't notice I was about to step on a frog!
WHA—!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HEY!!
AS I SAID, I CAN EASILY KILL YOU RIGHT NOW!
AND IT WOULDN'T EVEN BE A CRIME
There wouldn't be very much guilt involved in killing a frog—
...YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT, IKAI-KUN! WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?
Frog
I THINK...
HUH?
WHA—!
STOMP

BACKGROUND SFX: DOOM
IF YOU'D ACTED A LITTLE BIT SMARTER, YOU MIGHT HAVE LIVED LONGER...
WA
No
JUST KIDDING
Stare
LIKE I'D DIRTY MY SHOE JUST TO CRUSH YOU!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, FROG MAN!
What an annoying bum!
IMP IMP IMP
POOT
...I COULD HELP YOU...
...UKAI-KUN.
About to cry

chatter
chatter
chatter
I OVER-HEARD KIKUHIME-SAN TELLING THE TEACHER WHY SHE WAS LATE.
SHE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER DATE WITH UKAI-KUN!
Those two are going out?
NO WAY!
THIS MUST BE A JOKE?! WHAT'S WITH KIKUHIME-SAN?!
UKAI-KUN IS...
—HMM? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO FOLLOW ME AROUND.
Why must I be involved?
TCH! SAY WHAT-EVER YOU LIKE.
Ignorance is bliss!
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, FRO-
KIKU-HIME!
Don't touch me.
It might be concussion!
So... SORRY!! I'M MUCH OBLIGED

...HOW CAN YOU BE GOING OUT WITH UKAI?
WHY MUST YOU LIE?
...I DIDN'T LIE!
ISN'T THAT THE BIOLOGY TEACHER OSHIMITSU KADUKI?
THIS...
YORIKO!
...IS NOT YOUR CONCERN, IS IT?
Tsk
YOU CAN'T BE GOING OUT WITH UKAI!
WHY DO YOU ASSUME THAT I'M LYING?
THIS IS TOO IDIOTIC!
What is that supposed to mean?

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I don't want my family to find out.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING HOME... CAN I STAY AT YOUR HOUSE?
THAT TEACHER WAS THE CAUSE OF YOUR VISIT TO THAT CLINIC, RIGHT?
ONLY WHEN WE'RE AT SCHOOL!
IT'S ALRIGHT! WE'RE IN A RELATION-SHIP, RIGHT?
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME TO MY HOME?!
...HEY!
Tachibana Apts
clatter
clatter
clatter
dong dong dong dong
End of class
After School
I could tell Ukai Tetsurou is just the kind of guy I hate!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO USE HIS NAME...
From the first glance,
RAGE...
ah! I want a beer!
The refrigerator
Ah, what a lovely house! Forgive my intrusion!
BUT YOU USED MY NAME, SO MAYBE YOU COULD LEND ME YOUR HOUSE...
AH, I DIDN'T BLAB ABOUT IT!
smile
click
Besides you live alone!

AH, WE WERE SEEN!
Whoops.
Kya!
In an empty classroom after school.
It was something that happened...
RATTLE...
flashback
KIKU
...I FORGOT SOMETHING
AHAHA... DON'T TELL THE TEACHERS
Uka!
Using the same frivolous smile on everyone...
KIKU
...ALL RIGHT.
How annoying!
Yet she'd be around afterwards.
AH, IT FEELS SO GOOD!
...But
I have no right to say something like that now...

WHAT A RELIEF—
Don't lust me.
No naughty thoughts!
↓ SORRY!!
CALM DOWN, KIKUHIME-CHAN! I'M JUST KIDDING!!
No... I said I was sorry!!
JEEZ,
I REALLY CAN'T GO HOME LIKE THIS—
So don't entrust me out!
WHY DO YOU LIVE ALONE?
A rich lady living an elegant life alone?
YOU EVIL BITCH!!
THAT'S RIGHT,
Sob... Sob...
she took prey on him (toast)
YOU'RE A FROG! WHY DON'T YOU GO CATCH SOME BUGS?
I already put my clothes back on
KIKU-HIME-SAN!!
I wanna eat too!!
STOMACH RUMBLING
munch munch
—AND YOU? WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GO HOME?
What's wrong with your family finding out?
Ah? Did I say some thing wrong?

OH... THEY'RE NOT REALLY MY FAMILY!
I live with my uncle
BESIDES
TALKING ABOUT THIS AS A FROG...
BOTH MY AUNT AND MY COUSIN HAVE CRUSHES ON ME...
It's really awkward at home
CONSTANTLY ACCOMPANIED BY A FLOWER
MY AUNT FLIRTS WITH ME A LOT...
It's scary...
IT'S DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT...
It's my (late) parents' will, so I have to bear with it till I gradu-ate...
...IT'S THE SAME HERE; AFTER MY PARENTS DIED, I LIVED WITH MY SISTER IN MY AUNT'S HOUSE...
OH!
I SEE... CONFLICTS?
OH! WE'RE QUITE SIMILAR...
First time I've heard this
BUT WHY ARE YOU LIVING HERE ALONE NOW? HOW LUXURIOUS!
Where's your sister?
RICH MY FOOT!
THE MONTHLY RENT IS ONLY 6000 YEN
...EH?
No way!

I forgot to mention
IT'S BECAUSE THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED.
I heard that a murder happened here--
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT MUCH OF A SIXTH SENSE--
MY SIXTH SENSE IS STRONG, SO SPIRITS TEND TO STICK TO ME
.....
I'm full~
Like It's Completely Normal
HM? ARE YOU AFRAID?
No sixth sense but still afraid
NO
HOW~
SOB SOB SOB SOB...
YOU BIG LIAR !!!
I DON'T HAVE A SIXTH SENSE BUT I CAN STILL SEE THEM!!
towel
Urgh. the person who was killed here
was a female university student
SOB SOB SOB SOB...
MAMA! WHY DID YOU KILL ME?!
AN INFANT SPIRIT?
the voice of an infant spirit
How very clear

SOB SOB SOB...
MAMA...
YOU WENT TO THAT CLINIC FOR AN ABORTION, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU REALLY HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO GO WATCH TV IF YOU ENJOY INFRINGING ON THE PRIVACY OF OTHERS!
The remote is over there!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU MIKE LOTS OF GIRLS GET ABORTIONS TOO!
didn't sleep at all...
DOES HE KNOW ...?
THAT SPIRIT YESTERDAY WAS THE CHILD YOU HAD WITH THAT BIO TEACHER, WASN'T IT?
I JUST WANTED TO SAY IT ISN'T GOOD FOR BOTH THE MIND AND BODY!
Besides... yesterday was pretty scary...

...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS...
YOU'VE HATED ME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, HAVEN'T YOU?
...GOOD OBSERVATION
ANGER
You talk too much
"FRO. . "
THEN AT LEAST EXPLAIN WHY YOU FORCED ME TO MASQUERADE AS YOUR BOYFRIEND!
BASTARD!!
I'M NOT BRAGGING, BUT I'M ALWAYS VERY CAREFUL ABOUT SUCH THINGS!
HOW VERY MODEST OF YOU!
Don't worry, I've misunderstood you from the beginning
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME!!
His frivolous smile...
ZOOM
Nya-nyanya! Not listening!
Not listening!
Is really annoying!
Morning!
Good morning!
SIS!
Was tortured after that
I've finally found you!
It's so hard for us to meet even though we're in the same school!
TOMOKO!
Yoriko + Tomoko = Yoricomo
(No special meaning)

AUNTIE, UNCLE, AND KADUKI-CHAN ARE ALL REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
You have to keep in touch with them!
SIGH
YEAH. Sorry.
I remember that BIOLOGY teacher's name is...
Oshimitsu Kaduki
My mind's pretty sharp today...
KADUKI
AH! A pretty rare name
I'M SORRY
The older sister wins based on looks and figure alone, but if you factor in the personality the younger one should be better— but I'm not sure myself
Hmm they're siblings, huh
POUT
YOU NEVER COME HOME, SIS!
REALLY! YOU MOVED OUT WITHOUT EVEN DISCUSSING IT OR GIVING AN EXPLANA-TION
SO THE KIKUHIME SISTERS AND THAT BIOLOGY TEACHER ARE COUSINS
I NEED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOU!
They've always lived in his house?
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ABOUT KADUKI-CHAN!
RUSTLE...
Eh——??
Hey, hey!!! Really??
HE PLANS TO GO TO AMERICA AFTER HIS CON-TRACT WITH THE SCHOOL ENDS NEXT WEEK.
The research center over there sent a letter.

RETURN HOME
AUNTIE AND UNCLE APPROVE OF IT...
...SO,
I WANT TO GO WITH HIM...
If possible...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SIS?
YOU ARE...
GOING OUT WITH YOUR SISTER'S GUY...
Have you lost your mind?!
Sis!
Don't joke around!
You and Ukai-kun?
What are you saying?!
I really am going out with Ukai-kun!
I LENT YOU MY NAME, SO I CAN AT LEAST ASK, RIGHT?
What did I do?
Ukuu... maybe...
The two of them just now
You two aren't similar, but you're both rude!
BESIDES, HER REACTION TO MY NAME WAS PRETTY EXTREME
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...

I AM...
A PRODUCT OF MY MOM'S EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR.
OUR MANY DIFFERENCES ARE ONLY NATURAL SINCE WE AREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD.
I'M NOT RELATED TO MY AUNT'S FAMILY.
MY DAD AND MY AUNT ARE SIBLINGS.
ONLY MY SISTER IS.
IF THAT'S REALLY HOW IT IS, THEN YOU'RE THE WORST!
FUMED OFF
.....
You're the only participant in this conversation!
ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?
A GIRL GROWING UP IN A COMPLICATED ENVIRONMENT STEALS HER LITTLE SISTER'S GUY OUT OF JEALOUSY!
IT'S SO CLICHÉ THAT EVEN A 3RD RATE MAGAZINE WOULDN'T THINK OF USING IT!
.....
UGH...
AS IF YOU'RE ANY BETTER; YOU'RE TRYING TO INVADE MY PRIVATE LIFE!

...just can't smile...
SIS!
I...
...as naturally as Tomoko...
SIS!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
Scratch
YOU ARE SO AMAZING, SIS!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
no matter what I can accomplish,
SIS!
No matter how hard I work on other things,
I just can't win against her smile
WHY MUST WE TAKE IN SOMEONE COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO US?
Uncle
Aunt
...always causing those around me to lose their smile...
SHE'S ALWAYS SO ALOOF AND DETACHED
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
Not only that, I'm always...
IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS THAT SORT OF MOTHER AND SOME IMMORAL GUY FOR A FATHER!
KO!
Always...
YORI-KO!

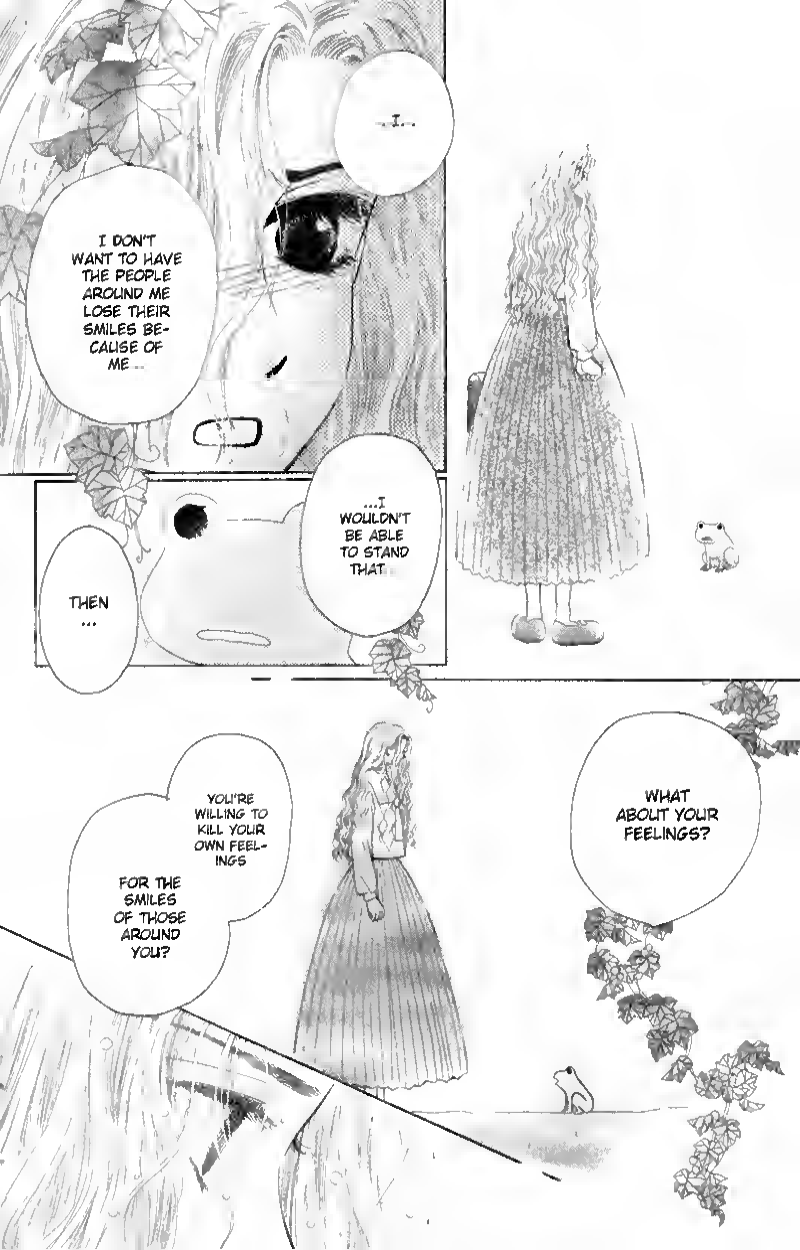
I LIKE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE.
But...
YORI-KO,
I'M YOURS.
...that someone can accept me...
whole-heart-edly...
SIS, HEAR ME OUT!
I LOVE KADUKI!
I LOVE HIM SO MUCH!
YORIKO AND KA-DUKI
SHE IS JUST LIKE HER MOTHER
...that someone can smile so sincerely
when he's with me...
this is the first time...
I LIKE YOUR AWKWARD SMILE.

Whoosh
Ceiling
Ah...
It's probably because of that rumour that no girls are approaching me...
Bored...
Rattle...
throwing an internal tantrum
Oshiroitsu Kazuki sensei looks like Toyokawa Etsushi
Come to think of it, it's all his fault! He's making me suffer like this!
An obnoxious guy toying with two girls at once!
Creepy pervert...!
Pissed off
Grr... Grr...

DING DONG DING DONG
I HAVE A FEW WORDS FOR HIM
Suddenly after school
HEY! OSHIMI-
-YO-RIKO,
I WANT ANOTHER ANSWER FROM YOU ABOUT GOING TO AMERICA!
I WANT YOU TO GO WITH ME, NO MATTER WHAT!
REGARD-LESS OF ANY OBSTACLES THAT AWAIT US, I HOPE WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER THERE!
-TSU!
"FROG"!
hmph!
YORI-KO!
At a total loss...
MY PARENTS SEEM TO BE ARRANGING SOMETHING FOR TOMOKO AND ME, BUT I DON'T CARE!
THE ONE I LOVE IS YORIKO!
I WANT YORIKO, NOT TO-MOKO!

I WON'T STAND FOR ANYONE BESIDES YORIKO!
.....
ACTU-ALLY...
...YOU WERE WITH HIM BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM, RIGHT?
...I'M SORRY, KADUKI-CHAN!

PISSED OFF...
WHY MUST YOU PRETEND TO GO OUT WITH ME AND BREAK UP WITH HIM?
BOTH OF YOU LOVE EACH OTHER!
NOT TO MENTION THE ABORTION!
ARE YOU THAT WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SISTER AND AUNT?
ARE YOU TRYING TO BE THE HEROINE OF A SOAP OPERA?
SHUT UP!
WHY'D YOU...
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP! BE QUIET!
JUST WATCHING YOU MAKES ME AGITATED!
YOU'RE RIGHT, I DON'T!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING WITH THAT INDECISIVENESS OF YOURS!
IF YOU LOVE HIM, THEN GO WITH HIM!
ISN'T IT SIMPLE? WHY ARE YOU HESITATING?
I'M NOT GOING OUT WITH YOU ANY MORE!
I WANT TO REVEAL EVERYTHING-
FROG MAN!


I...
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE THE PEOPLE AROUND ME LOSE THEIR SMILES BECAUSE OF ME...
...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAND THAT...
THEN ...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS?
YOU'RE WILLING TO KILL YOUR OWN FEELINGS
FOR THE SMILES OF THOSE AROUND YOU?

Translator's Note: "let's go home" is "kaero", which can also mean "frog"

click
?...
ZA
What about your feelings?
You're willing to kill your feelings
for the smiles of those around you?
?...
whoosh...
Tachibana Apts.

...HEY,
NO MATTER WHAT'S GOING ON,
I ENVY YOUR SIMPLE-MINDEDNESS,
YOU'RE ALWAYS SMILING SO FRIVOLOUSLY...
CONCERNING YOURSELF WITH OTHERS WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN CONDITION...
JEEZ!
THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE LIKE ME, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BULLY HIM.
YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO UNHAPPY.
TELL ME..
EVEN IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE HELPED,
AS LONG AS YOU FOLLOW YOUR OWN HEART,
ANYONE CAN SMILE!
TO DROWN IN SORROW THE WAY YOU ARE DOING IS SO EASY!
CAN YOU REALLY SMILE SO FREELY
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS..?

I DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE OTHER REASONS, BUT...
THAT'S THE WAY I AM.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT'S THE FIRST STEP TO P VING THE NEXT PATH.
GO! GO AND MEET HIM!
SMILE AS YOU APPEAR BEFORE HIM!
YOU'RE JUST RUN-NING AWAY RIGHT NOW!
EVERY-THING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
AS LONG AS YOU SMILE,
COME WITH ME

SAYING THAT I WAS GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE WAS A LIE
BUT I CAN'T GO WITH YOU...
I LOVE YOU, KADUKI
...EH?
EVEN NOW, MY FEELINGS FOR YOU HAVE NOT CHANGED.
YORIKO

I KNOW VERY WELL THAT...
YOR!
AS LONG AS I'M WITH KADUKI-CHAN, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROGRESS...
...NEVER BE ABLE TO SMILE.
BEFORE THIS... I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT STAYING SILENT...
WAS THE ONLY WAY TO HURT NO-ONE...
BUT I'VE FINALLY REALIZED...
WE'LL ONLY HAVE THE COURAGE TO END OUR RELATIONSHIP IF I MAKE THINGS CLEAR..
YORIKO... WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
I THINK THIS IS THE BEST SOLUTION...

MY MOTHER'S EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR...
WAS WITH YOUR FATHER...
IT WAS UNCLE...

...za...a...
zaa...
zaa...
WE'RE SIBLINGS!
WE'RE NOT COUSINS.
THEREFORE,
I CAN'T BE IN LOVE WITH KADUKI-CHAN!
I'M SORRY...
KADUKI-CHAN,
I CAN NEVER LOVE YOU!

I INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT UNCLE WOULD APPROVE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IF I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY PREGNANCY...
CLOSE...
BUT ONLY THEN. DID HE...
...MY AUNT AND HER HUSBAND...
Yoriko your real father is actually
PUTTING MY AUNT, WHO IS USUALLY AFRAID OF ME, ASIDE,
EVEN HER HUSBAND WHO NEVER INTERFERES, WAS AGAINST US...
WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT I WAS GOING OUT WITH KAZUKI,
MY AUNT WANTS TO USE MY SISTER'S LOVE FOR KAZUKI TO PULL US APART
WERE COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO IT!
Yoriko... forgive me...

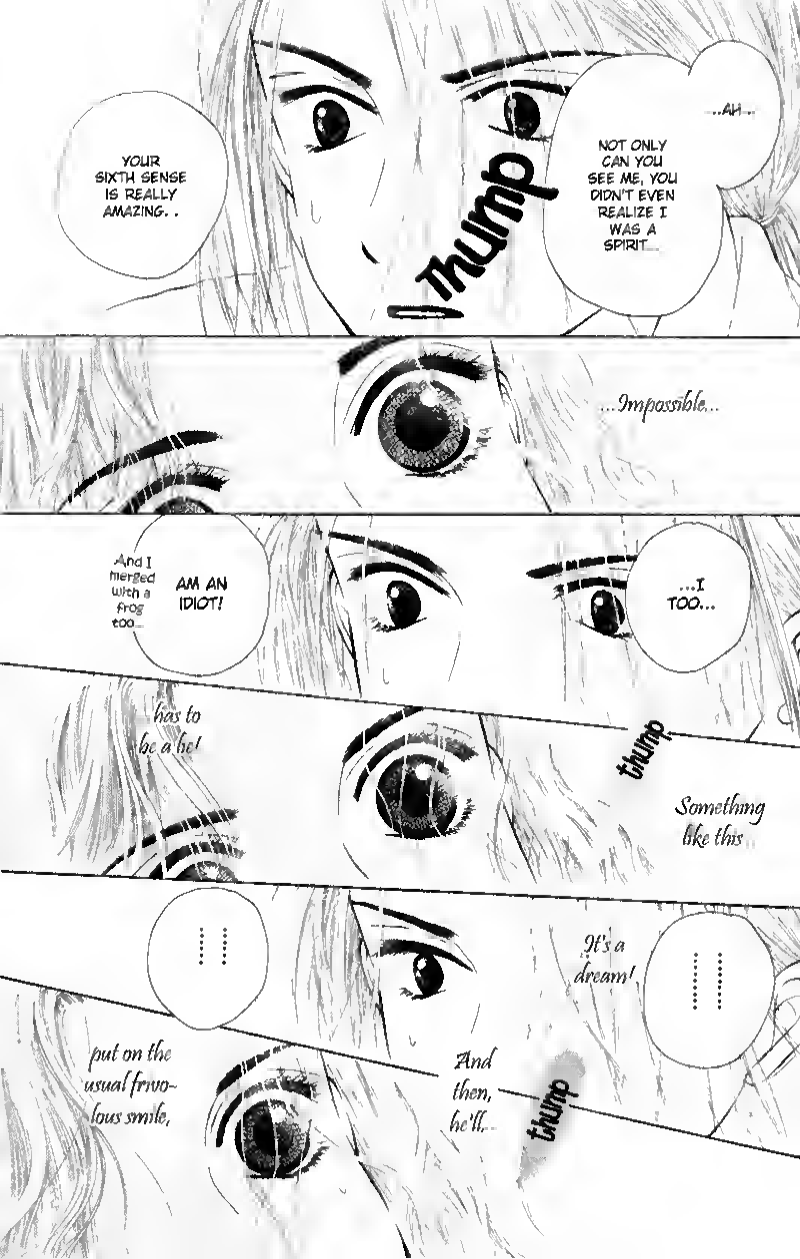
...HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
...THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
...IS A WONDERFUL GIRL...
...AT THE VERY LEAST,
I THINK THAT KIKU-HIME-SAN...
SOMEONE WHO CAN TAME SORROW AND SUFFERING
IS JUST AS AMAZING AS ONE WHO CAN SMILE IN A CAREFREE MANNER!

LET...
LET GO OF ME!
ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION?!
I THINK YOU'RE REALLY
YOU'RE REALLY ...
I feel...
...so much more relieved now...
His frivolous smile..
makes me feel so at ease..
I feel that I...
I...
I FEEL ...
...EH?
thump

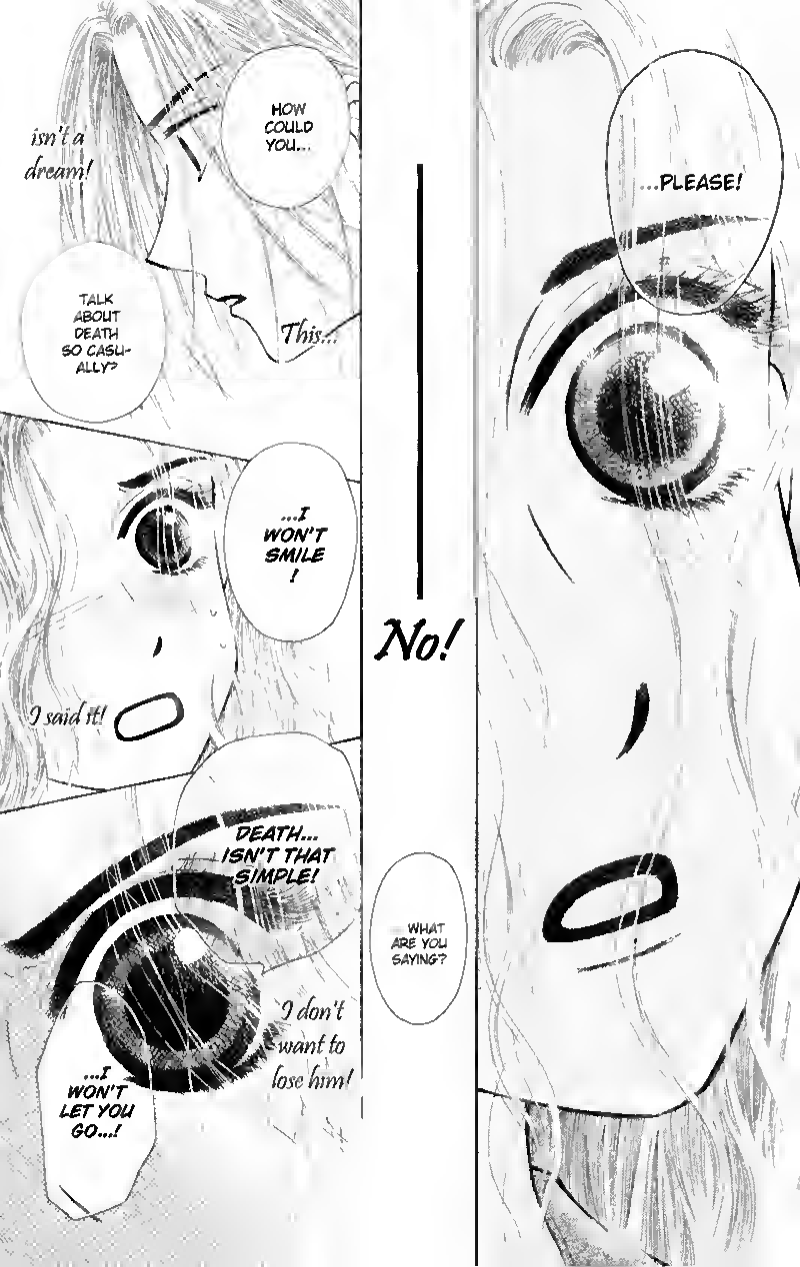
thump
WHAT...
THIS ...!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE..
thump
OBSTETRICS
UKAI...
YOUR BODY... SEEMS TO BE...
thump
FLOAT-ING ..
AH...
I...
AH!

AT THAT MOMENT... I WAS HIT BY A CAR..
...THAT'S RIGHT!
...THIS HAS TO BE A JOKE...
Thump
.. AND THEN... I MERGED WITH A .. FROG?

YOU CAN'T BE GOING OUT WITH UKAI!
WHY MUST YOU LIE?
...Nobody else...
Stare
WHAT'S UP WITH KIKU-HIME-SAN...?
can see him?
DON'T JOKE AROUND, SIS!
I DON'T HAVE A SIXTH SENSE BUT I CAN STILL SEE THEM!
Waaahh...
SO WAS MY SOUL FORM BEFORE THIS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT FROG?!
ARGH
IT'S NOT A JOKE!
MY BODY'S REALLY GONNA DISAPPEAR
...YOU MUST BE JOKING
I'M ABOUT TO DIE
MY BODY
No way...
Jump
IMPOSSIBLE


YOUR SIXTH SENSE IS REALLY AMAZING..
thump
...AH...
NOT ONLY CAN YOU SEE ME, YOU DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE I WAS A SPIRIT...
...Impossible...
And I merged with a frog too...
AM AN IDIOT!
...I TOO...
has to be a be!
thump
Something like this...
...
It's a dream!
...
put on the usual frivolous smile,
And then, he'll...
thump

Even if it's something like this, he'll pull through in a relaxed manner...
thump
...KIKU-HIME-SAN,
SMILE!
THIS MAY BE OUR FINAL MEETING...
I'M ABOUT TO...
DISAP-PEAR!
BEFORE THAT HAP-PENS,
...I WANT YOU TO SMILE!
thump...
PLEASE!
BEFORE I DIE...
thump...
.....
I WANT TO SEE YOUR SMILE NO MATTER WHAT!


isn't a dream!
HOW COULD YOU...
TALK ABOUT DEATH SO CASUALLY?
This...
...I WON'T SMILE!
I said it!
No!
DEATH... ISN'T THAT SIMPLE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I don't want to lose him!
...I WON'T LET YOU GO...!
...PLEASE!

...THOSE ..
WERE THE SWEETEST WORDS!
thump..
...?...
THANK YOU...
...NO!
...?...
DON'T ...
DON'T GO...!
koom...

I...
CROAK

...JERK!
...WHY?
WHAT IS THIS ...?!
Thank you!
WHY AM I CRYING ...?
Thank you!
...I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...!

chatter
chatter
chatter
RIBBIT
SPRING'S ALMOST HERE, FROG!
BUT YOU STILL FEEL COLD BEFORE SPRING ARRIVES, RIGHT?
CROAK
(sniff)
WHINES
WHINES
WHINES
WHINES
WHINES

KIKUHIME-SAN IS BEING REALLY WEIRD!
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS LATELY
SHE FINALLY COMES TO SCHOOL, BUT THEN WHAT'S WITH THE FROG?
SOME-THING MUST'VE HAPPEN-ED!
NOTHING HAPPENED AT ALL!
WAH!!
Rose
TURN
FLAP
YOU USED TO HATE FROGS,
She's so weird!
Ugh
Wah / Wah /
She is so freaky!
ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT SOME-ONE AS PROPER AS I AM...
DON'T YOU THINK THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN RUDE PEOPLE LATELY,
CROAK (This is Hisbe)
FROG?
thump...
thump...
NOW YOU EVEN WALK AROUND WITH ONE ON YOUR SHOULDER!
...AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO EX-TREME?
Hump...
Pft
...YOU? PROPER?

PU.
YOU ARE JUST WAY TOO COOL!
...U...
YOU SAID IT YOUR-SELF!
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T LET ME GO.
THANKS TO THAT STRONG DESIRE OF YOURS,
I WAS ABLE TO COME BACK!

...YOU AREN'T THINKING ABOUT
RETRACTING YOUR WORDS, ARE YOU?
A frivolous smile...
Such frivolous words...
Because there's no way I'm dying again!
...IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY IT WAS ALL ON A WHIM!
I'll give you another chance
Sigh
moan
moan
Ukai on the sick bed...
It's true...
I...

In a northern country, there exists a bizarre fairytale about a princess and a prince who turns into a frog.
(Taken from Grimm's "The Frog Prince")
...YOU FINALLY SMILED!
SHUT UP!
And our relationship is a modern day fairytale...
Frog Princess Happy End

Frog Princess/End